



# Fantastic Four

## DISASSEMBLED

**MARVEL**

518

WAID  
WIERINGO  
KESEL



R.V.G.  
KESEL  
'04  
MOUNTS



# THE FANTASTIC FOUR

**4** A team—and a family—of adventurers, explorers and imaginauts, the Fantastic Four lead lives both ordinary—and extraordinary. As of today:

**3** The FF has made a number of public missteps lately, greatly eroding public confidence in New York's First Family. Between their fall from grace and the recent casualties resulting from the destruction of Avengers Mansion, New Yorkers don't know where to turn...

**2** ...when a quartet of miles-tall alien obelisks strike the rivers around Manhattan, their gargantuan impact deluging portions of the city in stories-high tidal waves...

**1** ...for a start.



STAN LEE PRESENTS  
**"FOURTITUDE"**

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**Part**  
**2 of 3**





SUZIE, YA  
GOTTA FIGHT!  
CAVALRY'S ONNA  
WAY!

I'M...  
TRYING, BEN! THE...  
PRESSURE...

...CAN'T...HOLD THE  
BARRIER...!

MOMMY?

MOMMY!

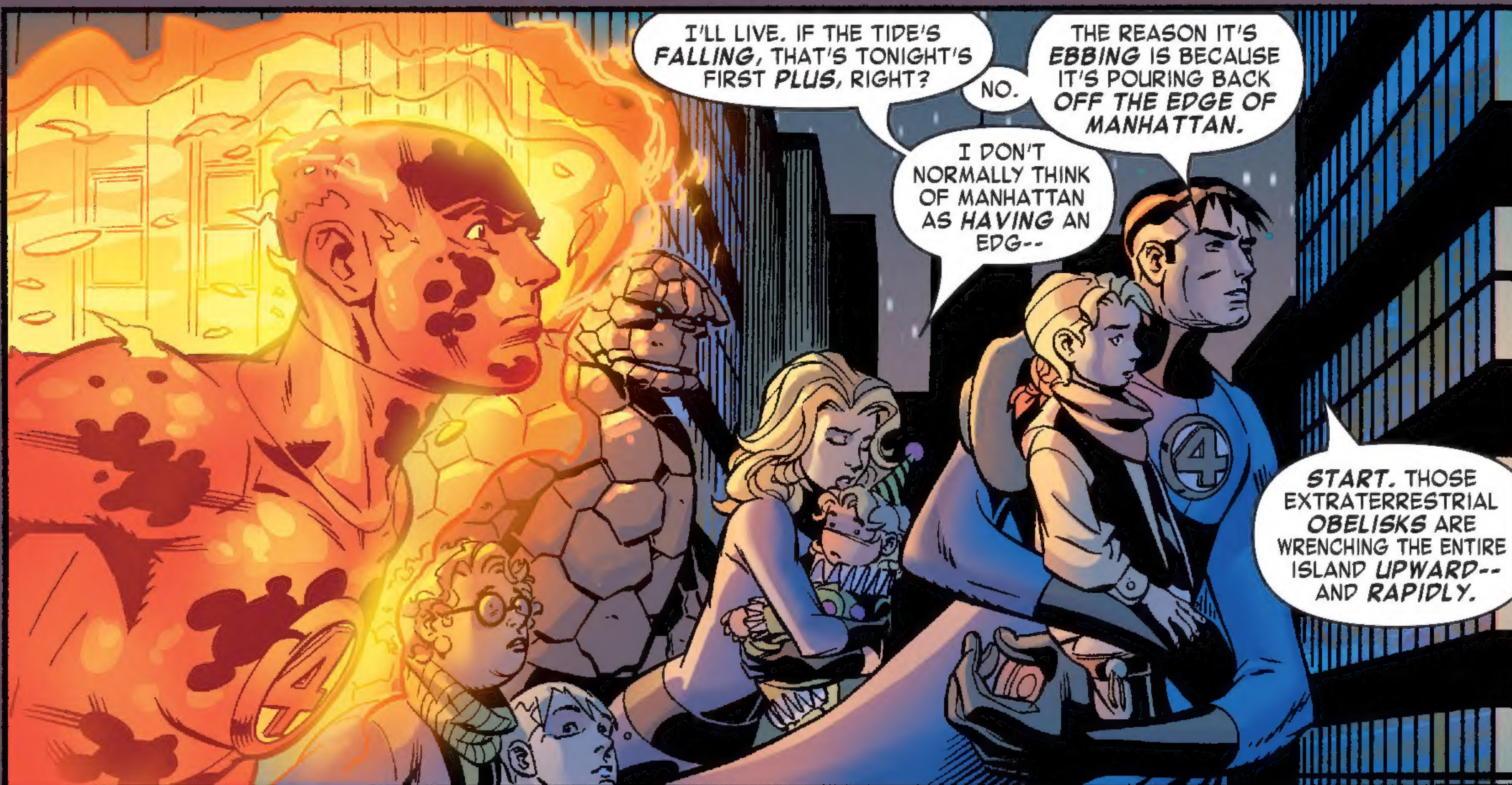


RELAX,  
FRANKO! IT'S  
UNC AND DAD TO  
THE RESCUE!

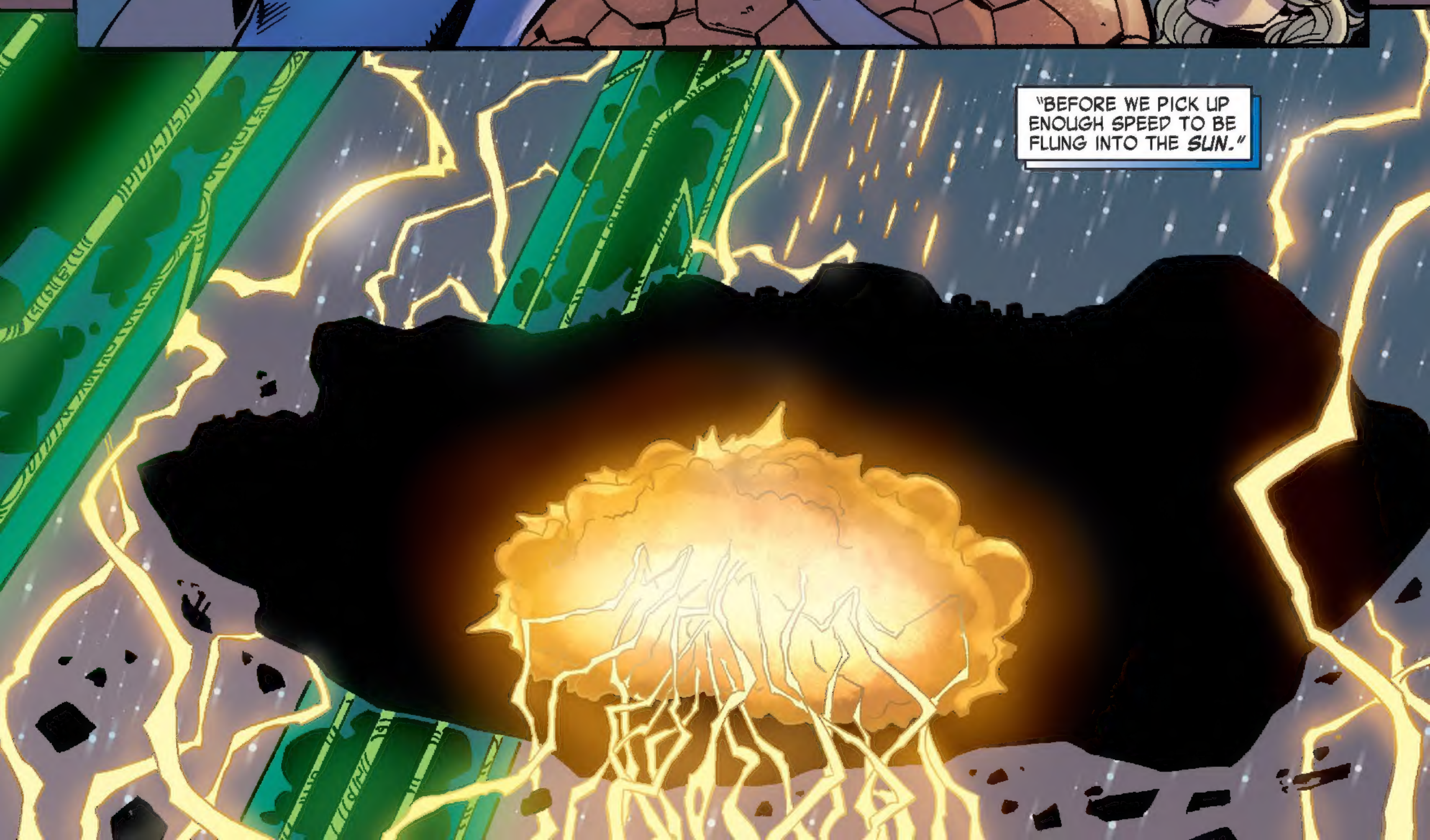
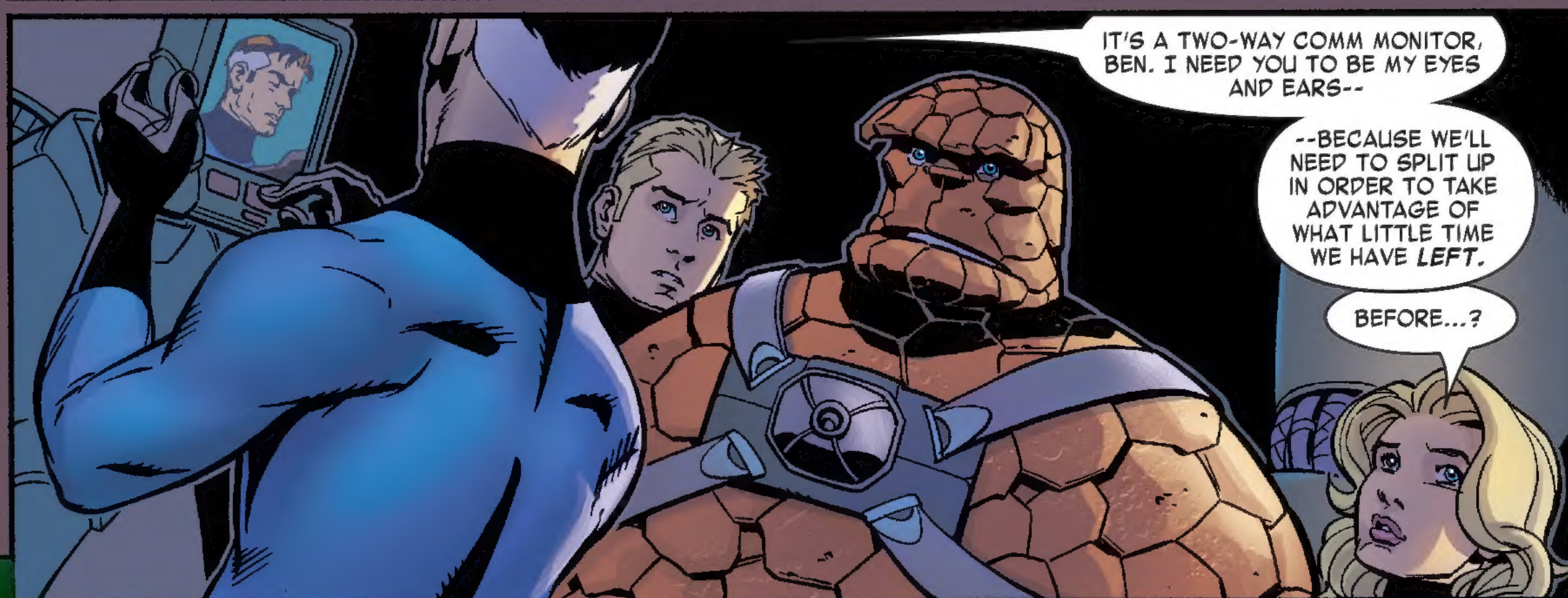
EVERYONE GRAB  
A BYSTANDER AND  
FOLLOW ME!



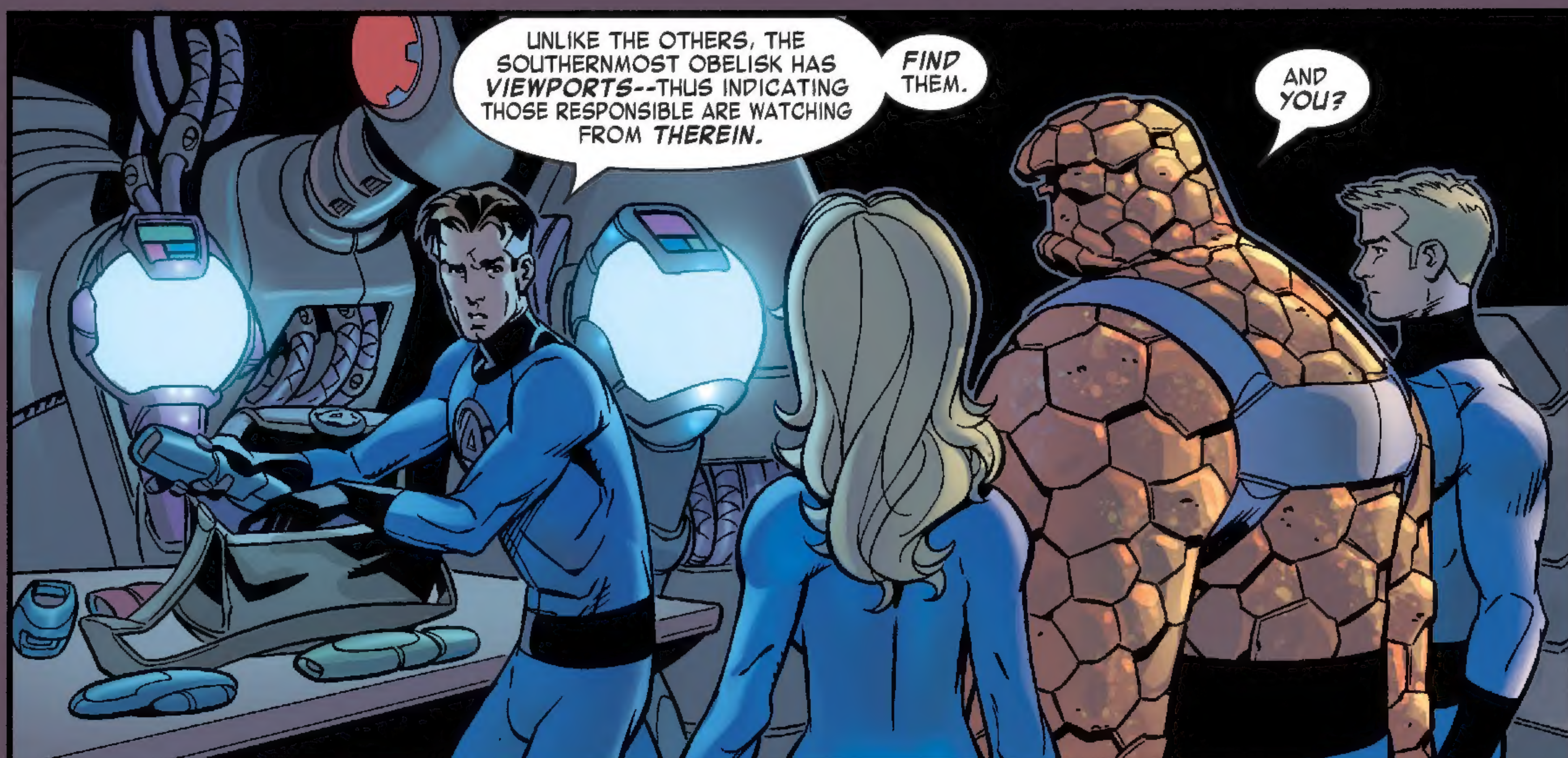
4 TWO BLOCKS LATER...











UNLIKE THE OTHERS, THE SOUTHERNMOST OBELISK HAS **VIEWPORTS**--THUS INDICATING THOSE RESPONSIBLE ARE WATCHING FROM *THEREIN*.

**FIND THEM.**

AND YOU?



RADIATING ENERGY PATTERNS INDICATE THAT THEIR **GENERATORS** ARE INSIDE THE **WESTERN PYLON**.

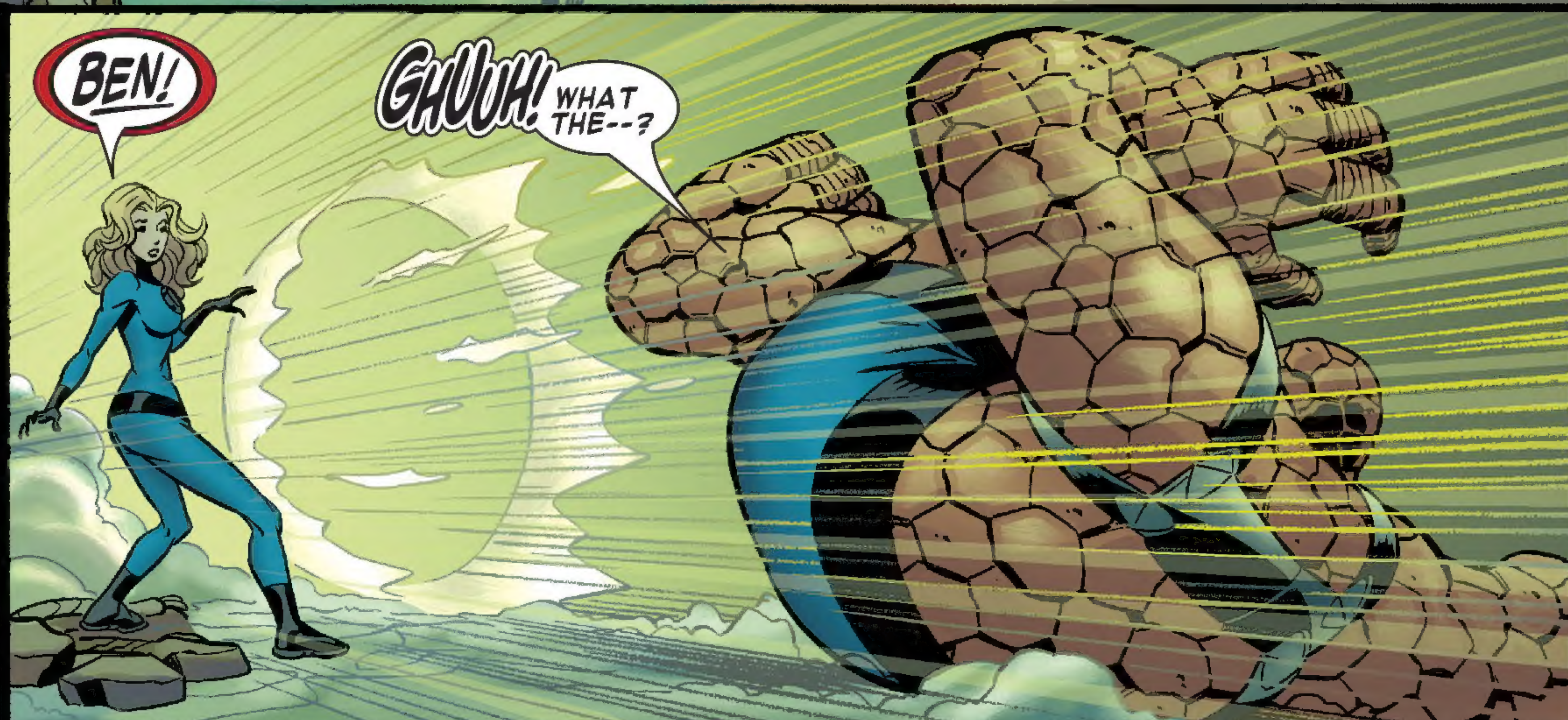
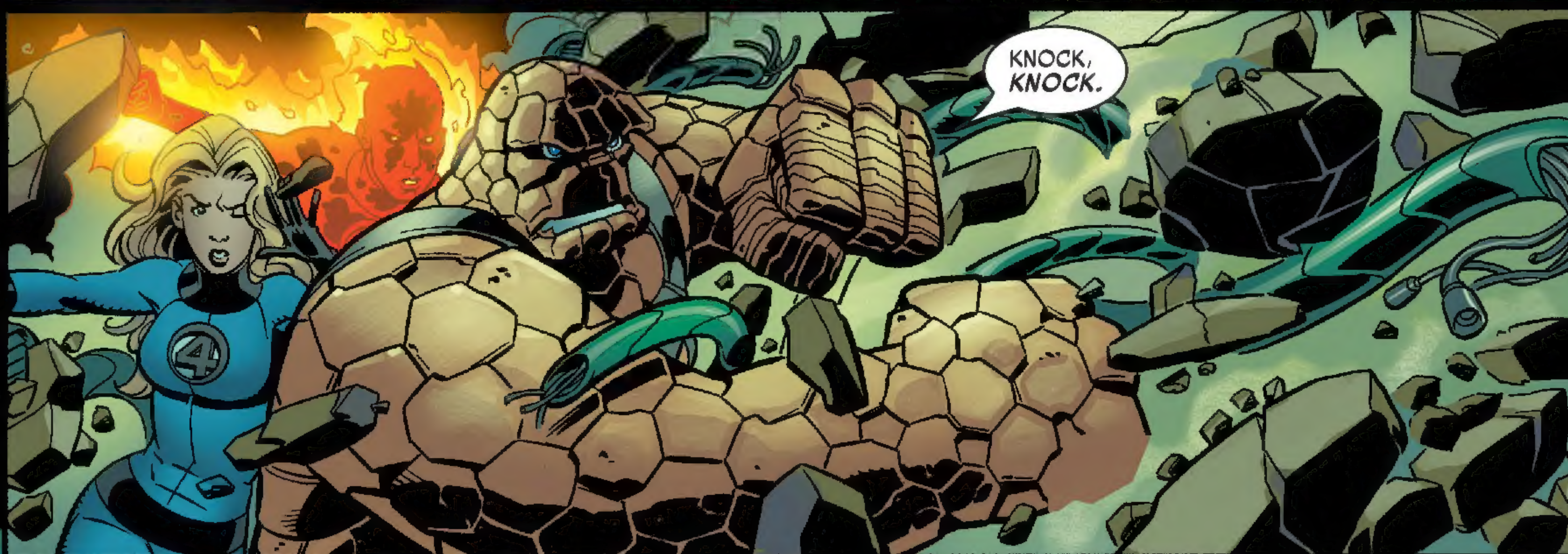
I'LL DETERMINE THE QUICKEST WAY TO **SHUT THEM DOWN.**



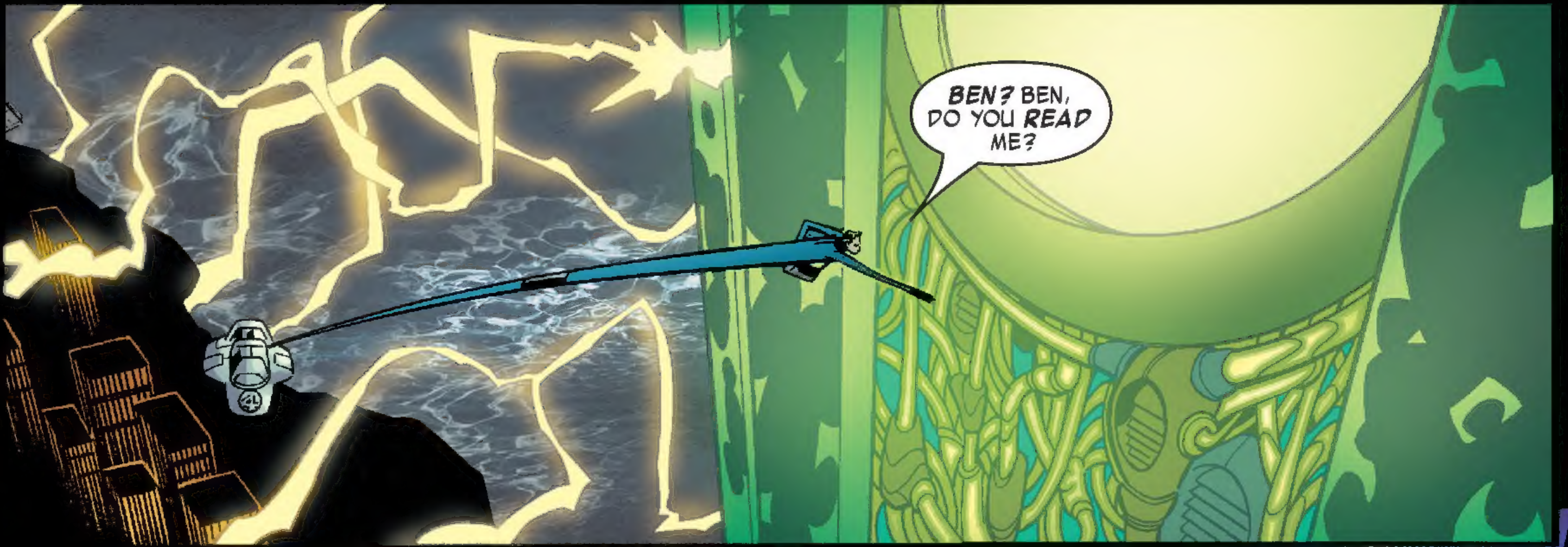
"STAY IN TOUCH."

ALL RIGHT, WE'RE ABOUT THREE-QUARTERS OF THE WAY UP! SIS, A LITTLE MORE ALTITUDE, MAYBE...?

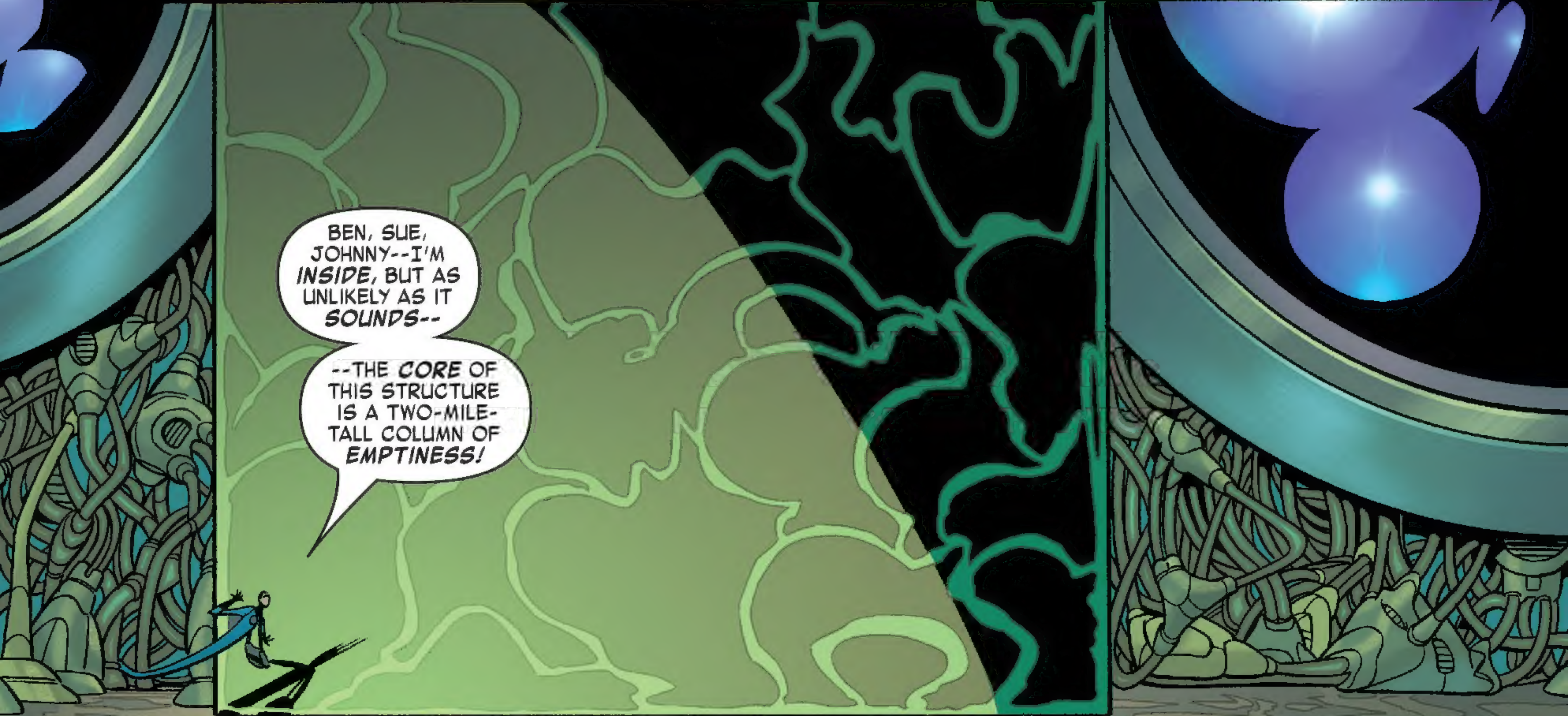








BEN? BEN,  
DO YOU READ  
ME?



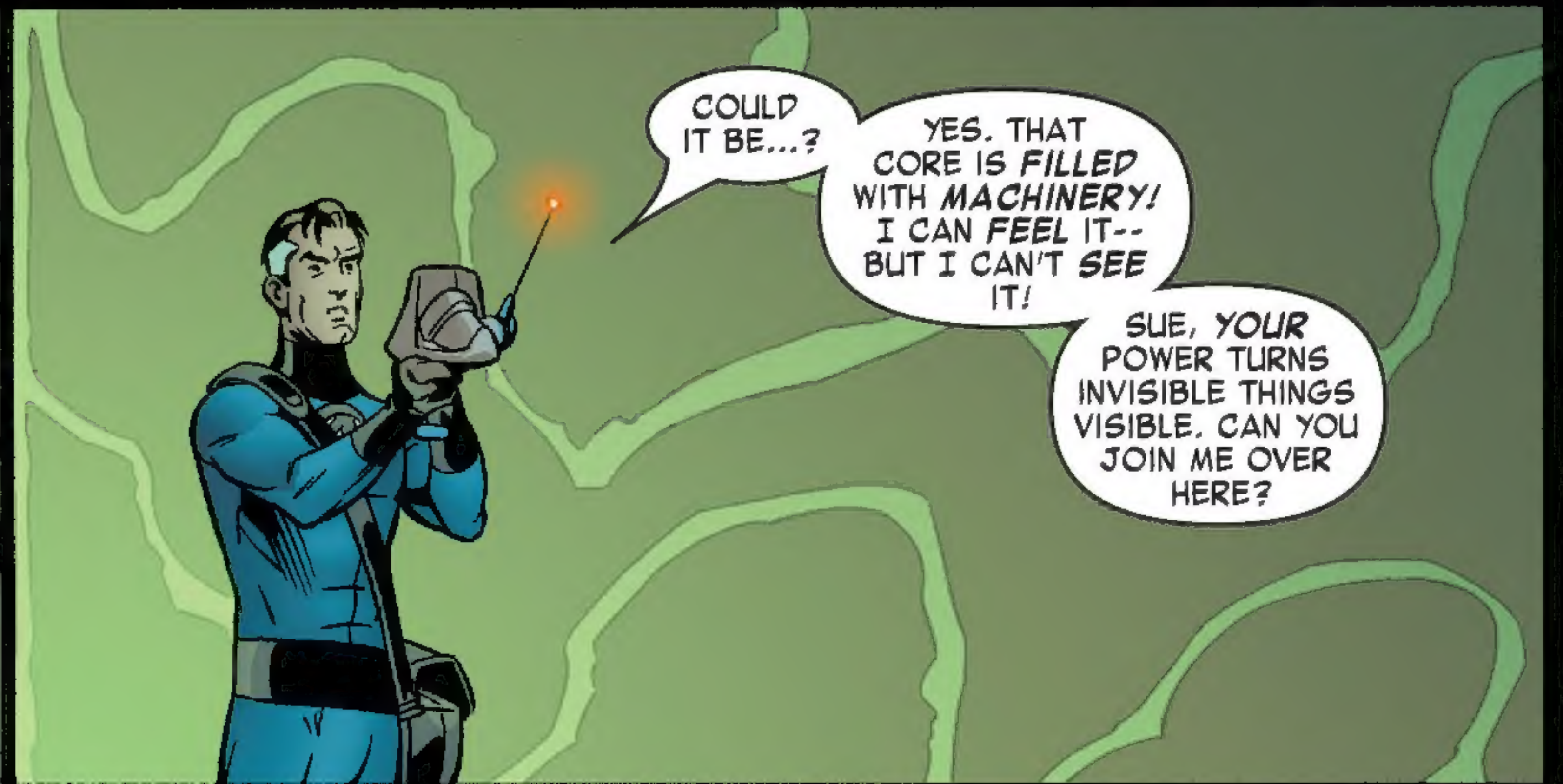
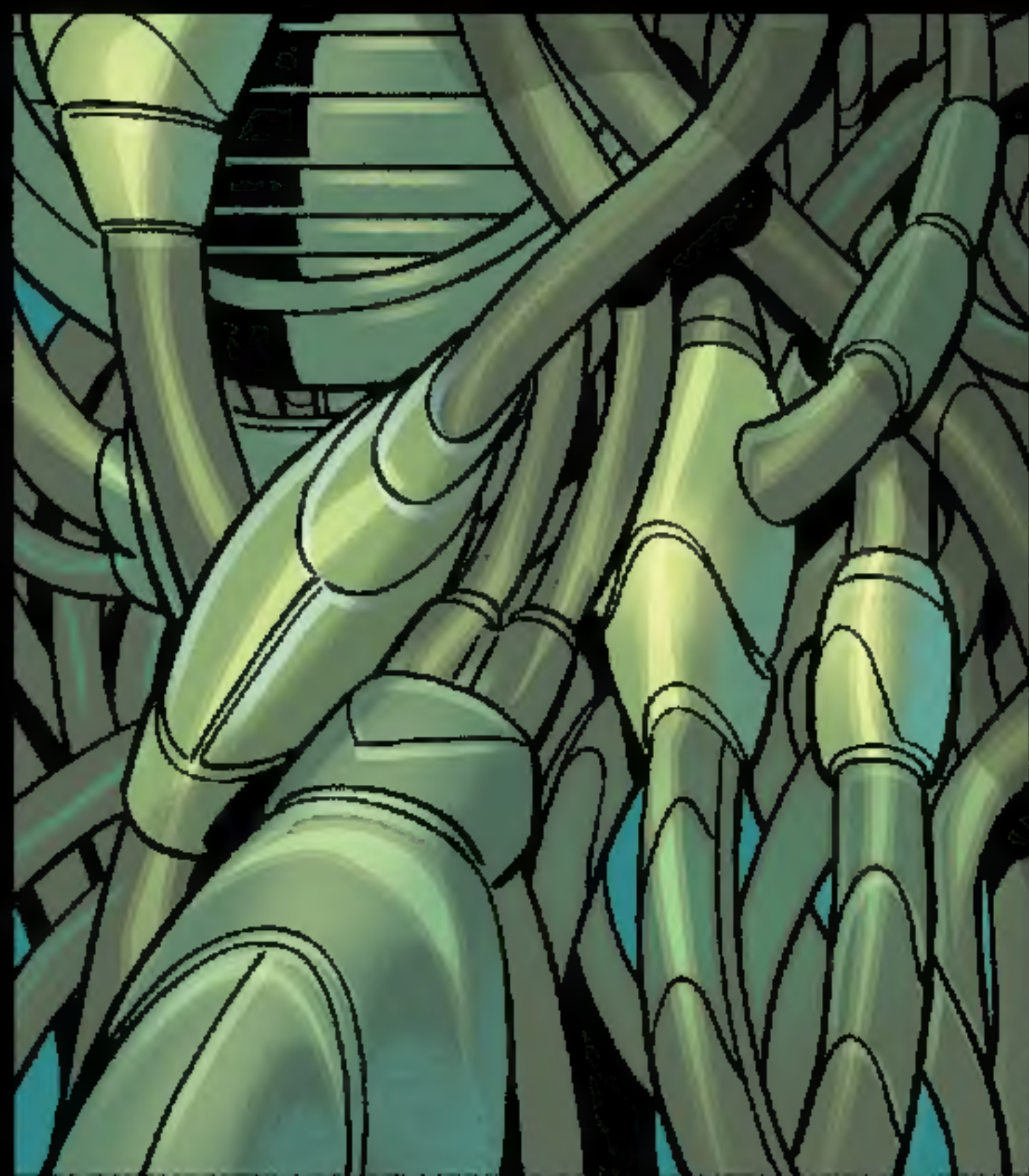
BEN, SUE,  
JOHNNY--I'M  
INSIDE, BUT AS  
UNLIKELY AS IT  
SOUNDS--

--THE CORE OF  
THIS STRUCTURE  
IS A TWO-MILE-  
TALL COLUMN OF  
EMPTINESS!



PERHAPS  
IF I STRETCH  
TO THE FAR  
SIDE--

OW!



COULD  
IT BE...?

YES. THAT  
CORE IS FILLED  
WITH MACHINERY!  
I CAN FEEL IT--  
BUT I CAN'T SEE  
IT!

SUE, YOUR  
POWER TURNS  
INVISIBLE THINGS  
VISIBLE. CAN YOU  
JOIN ME OVER  
HERE?



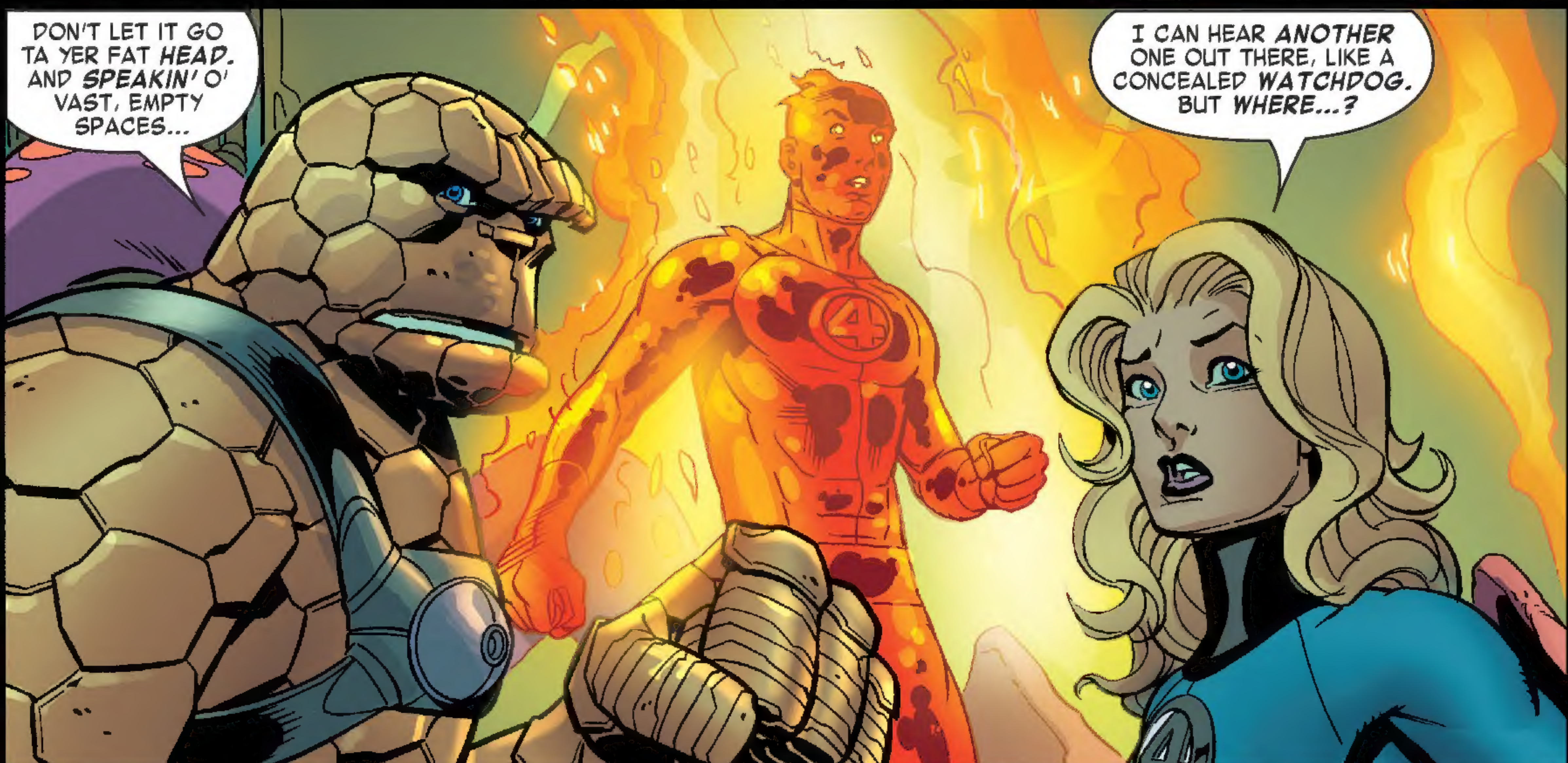
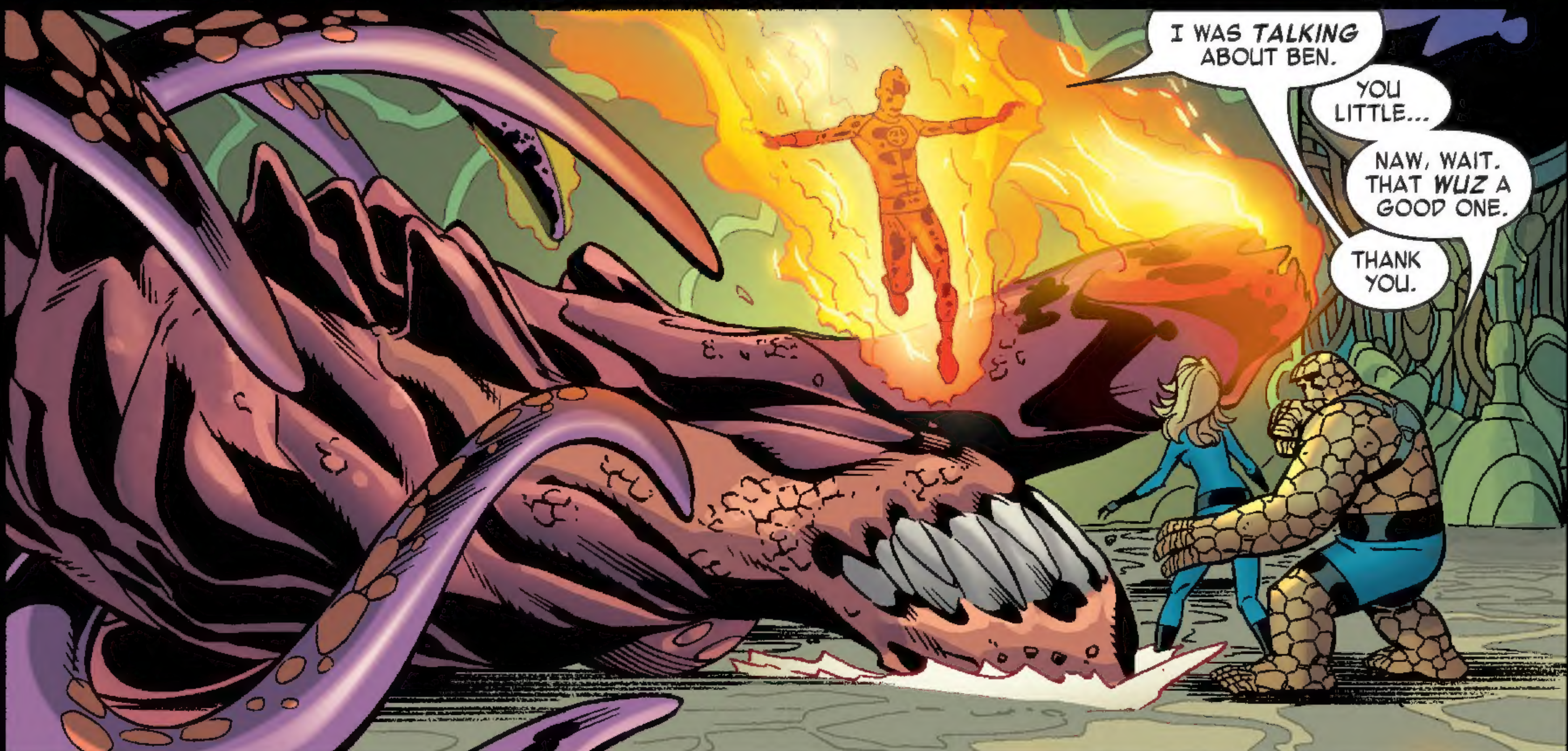


NOT RIGHT NOW...





THEN HOW IS BEN SUPPOSED TO HIT IT?



DON'T LET IT GO TA YER FAT HEAD. AND SPEAKIN' O' VAST, EMPTY SPACES...

I CAN HEAR ANOTHER ONE OUT THERE, LIKE A CONCEALED WATCHDOG. BUT WHERE...?









LIMM...  
...HEY,  
REED...?



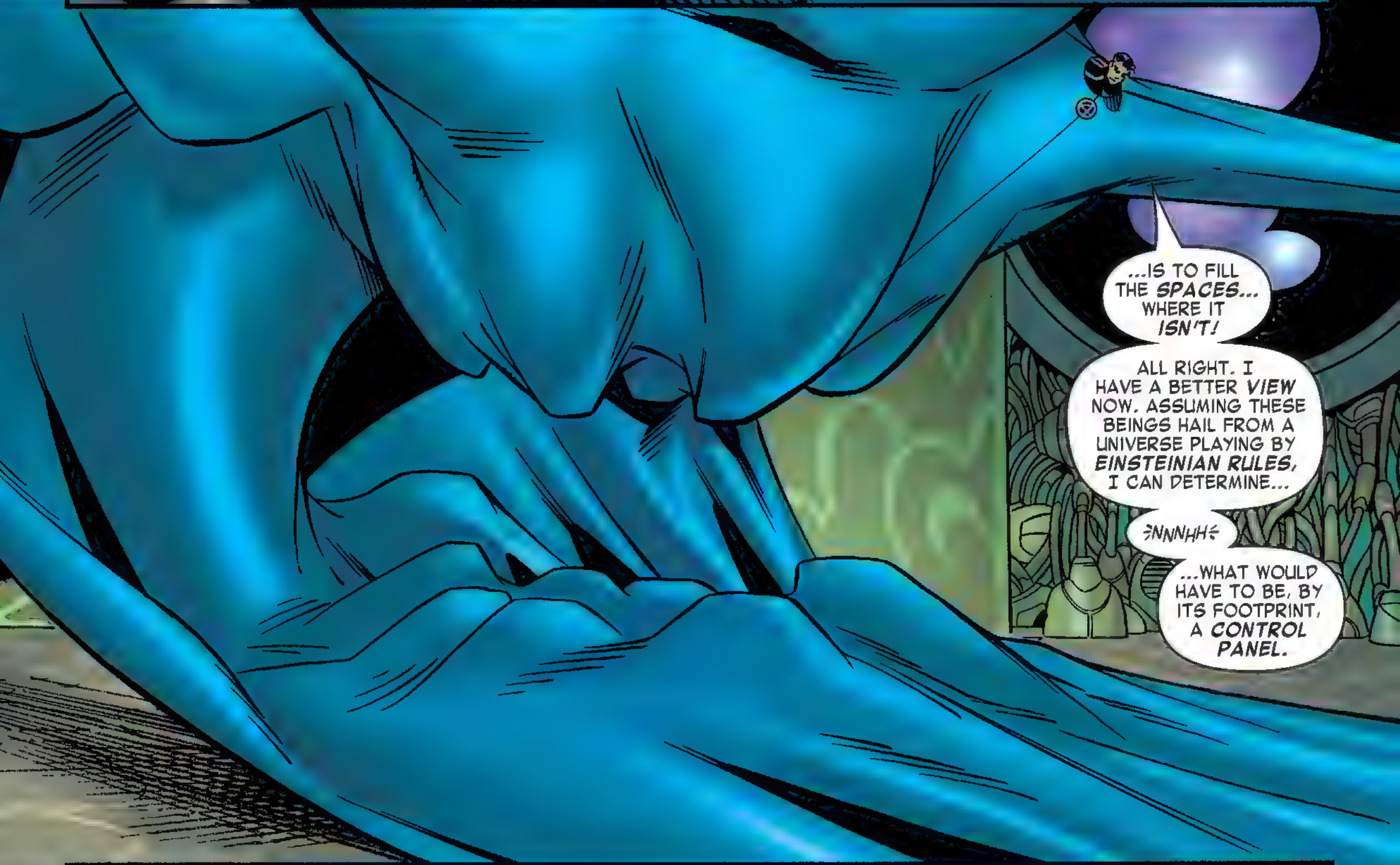


NOW I'M...  
A LITTLE...  
NNNGH...

...BUSY,  
BEN...!

WITHOUT  
SUSAN, THE  
ONLY WAY TO...  
NNFFF...

...TO GET A  
FIX ON WHAT THIS  
TECHNOLOGY  
IS...

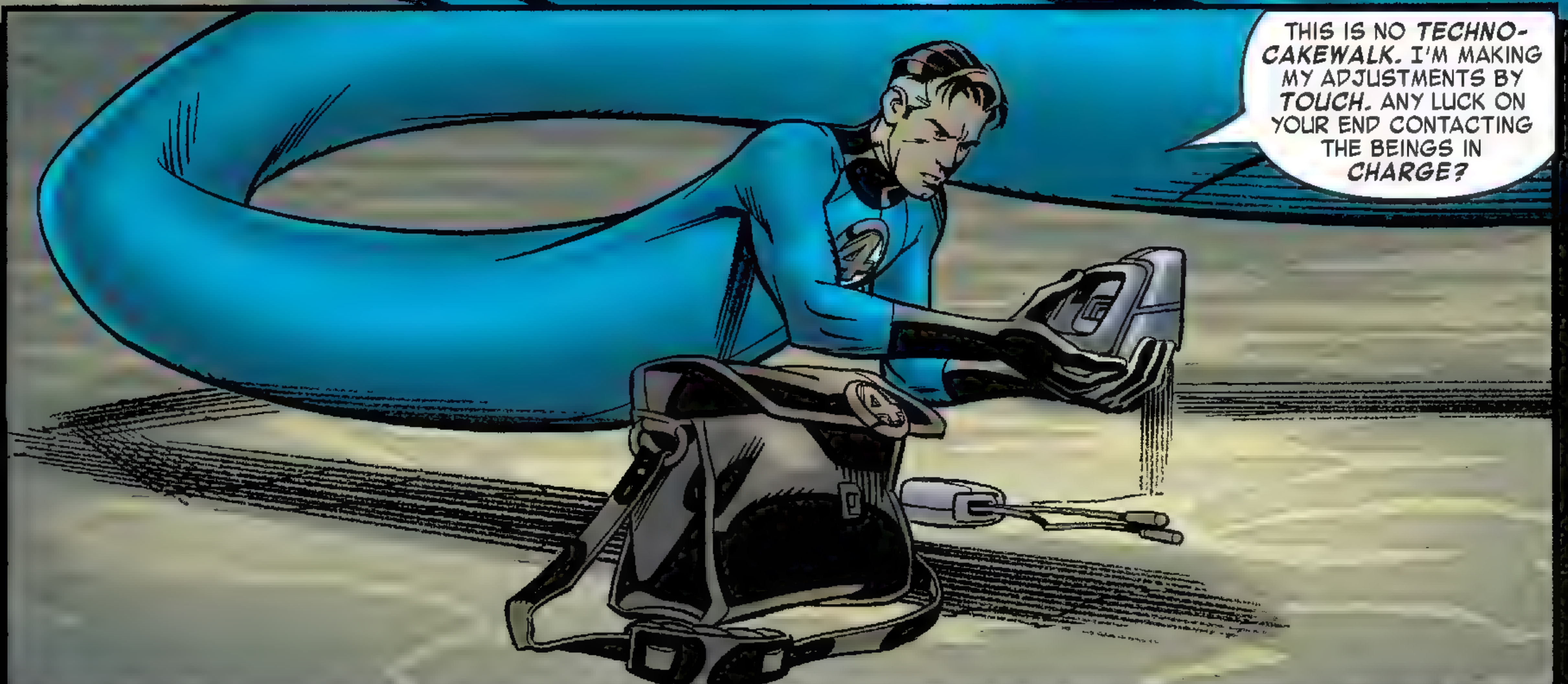


...IS TO FILL  
THE SPACES...  
WHERE IT  
ISN'T!

ALL RIGHT. I  
HAVE A BETTER VIEW  
NOW. ASSUMING THESE  
BEINGS HAIL FROM A  
UNIVERSE PLAYING BY  
EINSTEINIAN RULES,  
I CAN DETERMINE...

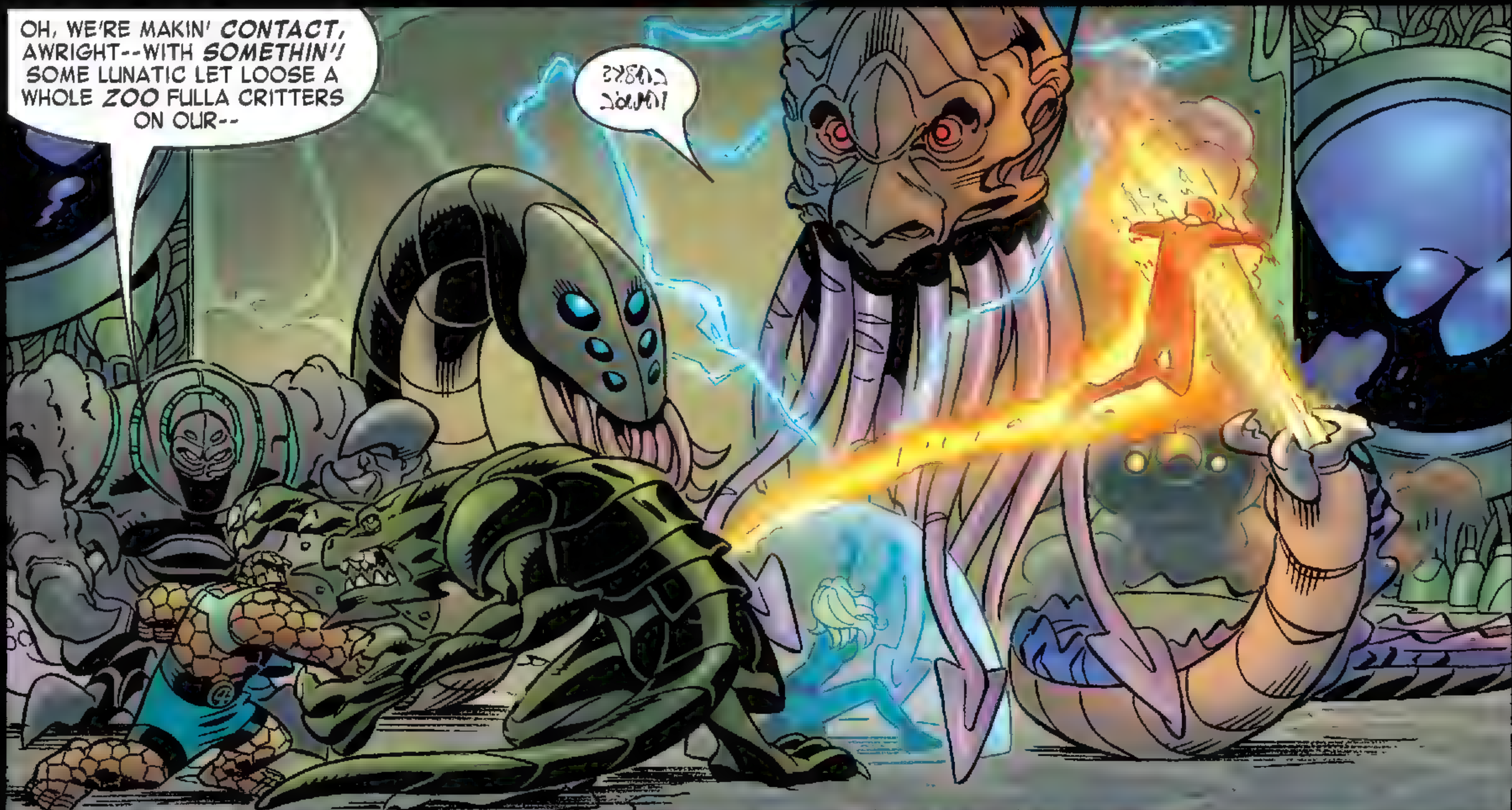
>NNNNHH<

...WHAT WOULD  
HAVE TO BE, BY  
ITS FOOTPRINT,  
A CONTROL  
PANEL.



THIS IS NO TECHNO-  
CAKEWALK. I'M MAKING  
MY ADJUSTMENTS BY  
TOUCH. ANY LUCK ON  
YOUR END CONTACTING  
THE BEINGS IN  
CHARGE?





OH, WE'RE MAKIN' CONTACT,  
AWRIGHT--WITH **SOMETHIN'**!  
SOME LUNATIC LET LOOSE A  
WHOLE ZOO FULLA CRITTERS  
ON OUR--

???

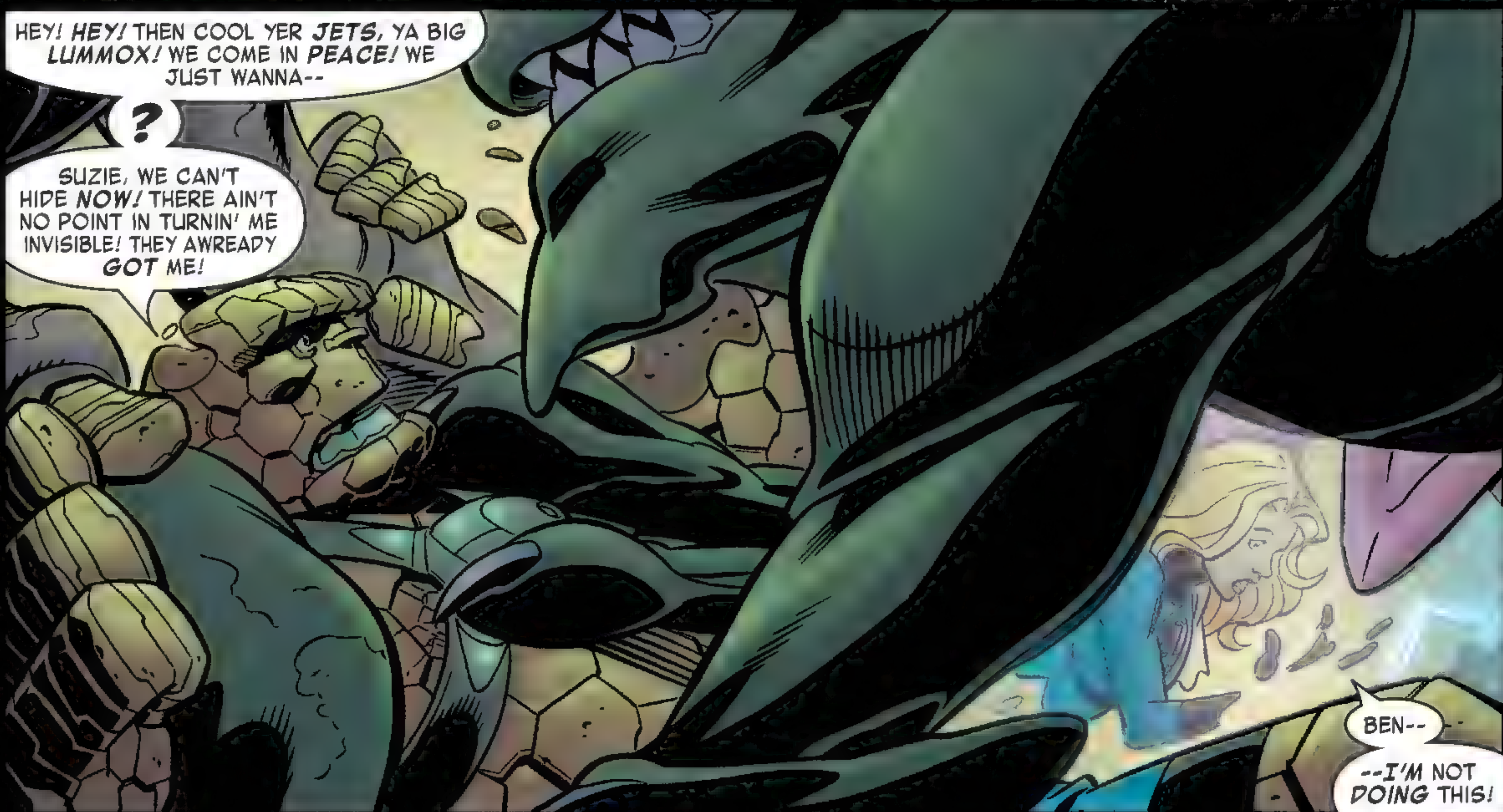


HUH?

???

BEN, I HARDLY  
RECOGNIZE THE  
LANGUAGE--BUT IT  
**IS A LANGUAGE.**  
THOSE SOUND LIKE  
ORDERS TO **STAND  
DOWN!**

THESE  
AREN'T WATCHDOGS--  
THEY'RE **INTELLIGENT  
CREATURES!**



HEY! **HEY!** THEN COOL YER **JETS**, YA BIG  
**LUMMOX!** WE COME IN **PEACE!** WE  
JUST WANNA--

?

SUZIE, WE CAN'T  
HIDE NOW! THERE AIN'T  
NO POINT IN TURNIN' ME  
INVISIBLE! THEY AWREADY  
**GOT ME!**

BEN--

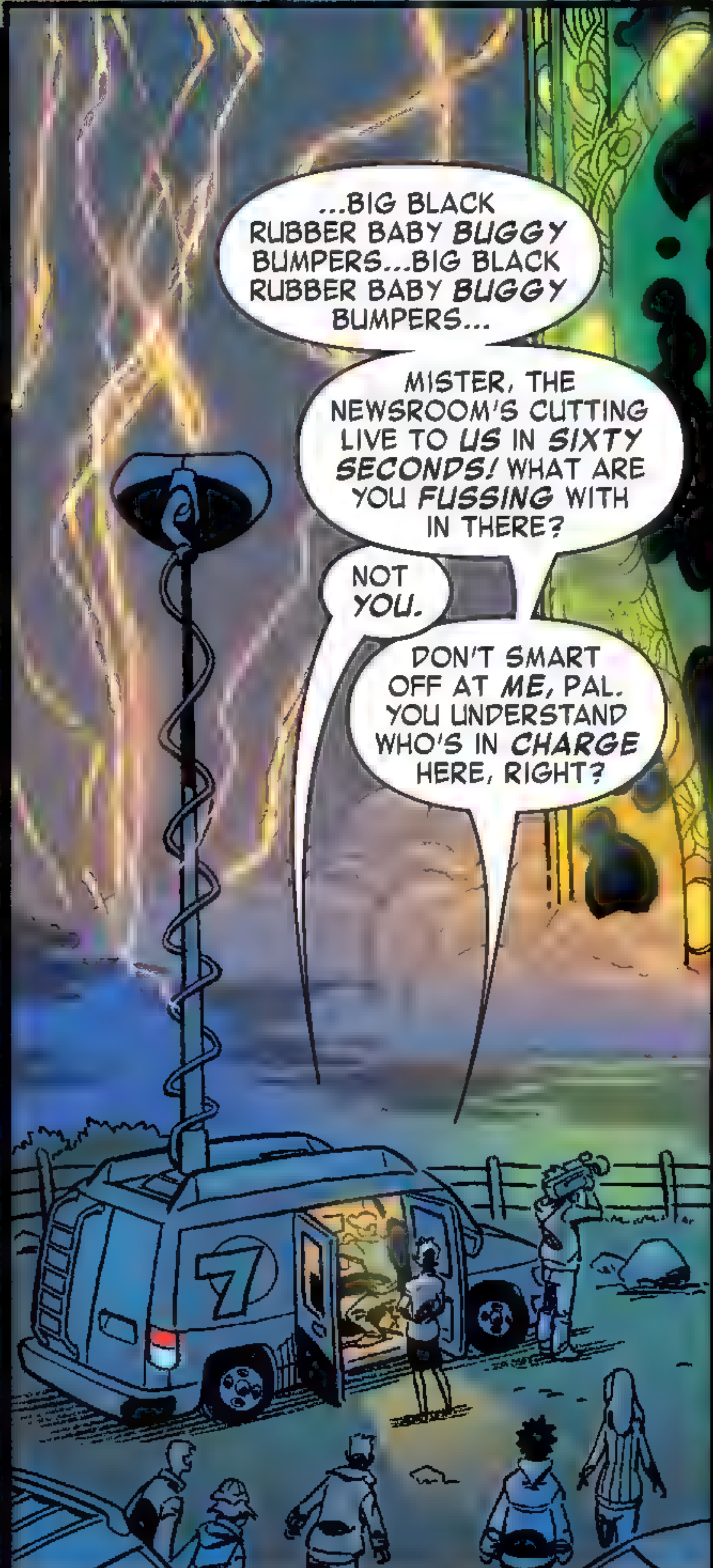
--I'M NOT  
DOING THIS!





NO.  
I AM.

I AM THE  
LEADER FOR WHOM  
YOU SEARCH. THE  
MAN TO WHOM  
THESE SENTIENTS  
ANSWER.  
MY  
NAME IS  
ZIUS.

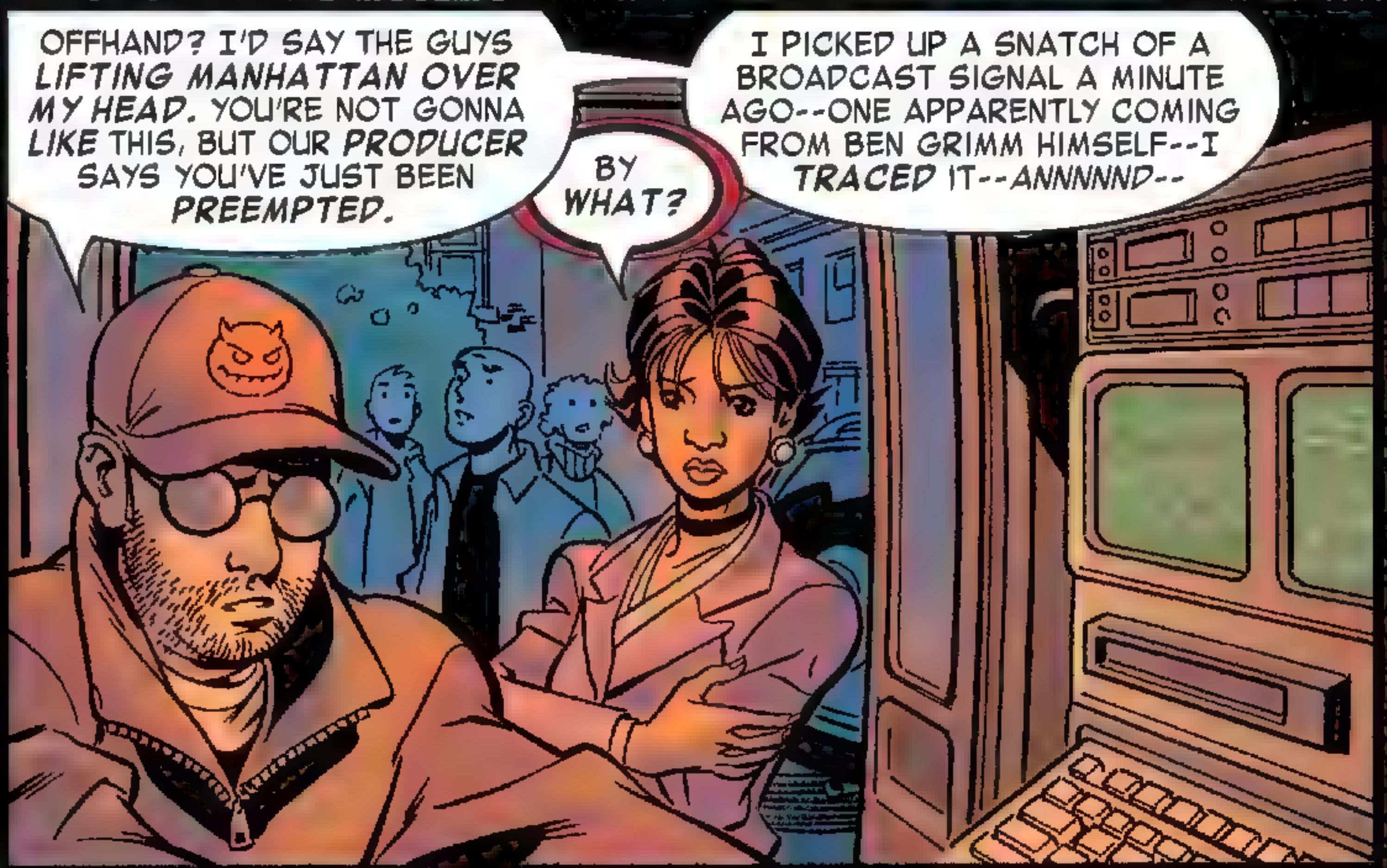


...BIG BLACK  
RUBBER BABY BUGGY  
BUMPERS...BIG BLACK  
RUBBER BABY BUGGY  
BUMPERS...

MISTER, THE  
NEWSROOM'S CUTTING  
LIVE TO US IN SIXTY  
SECONDS! WHAT ARE  
YOU FUSSING WITH  
IN THERE?

NOT  
YOU.

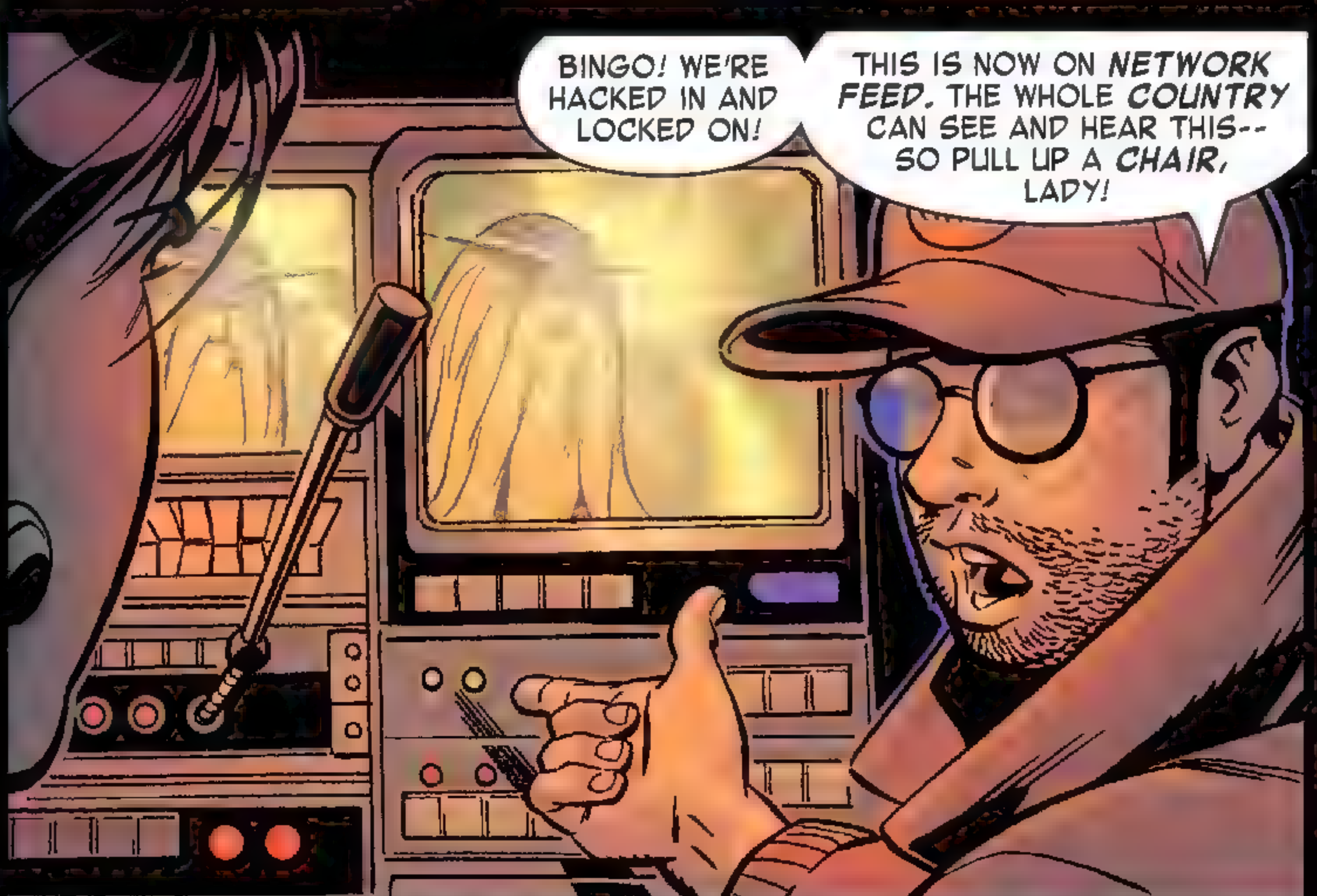
DON'T SMART  
OFF AT ME, PAL.  
YOU UNDERSTAND  
WHO'S IN CHARGE  
HERE, RIGHT?



OFFHAND? I'D SAY THE GUYS  
LIFTING MANHATTAN OVER  
MY HEAD. YOU'RE NOT GONNA  
LIKE THIS, BUT OUR PRODUCER  
SAYS YOU'VE JUST BEEN  
PREEMPTED.

BY  
WHAT?

I PICKED UP A SNATCH OF A  
BROADCAST SIGNAL A MINUTE  
AGO--ONE APPARENTLY COMING  
FROM BEN GRIMM HIMSELF--I  
TRACED IT--ANNNNND--



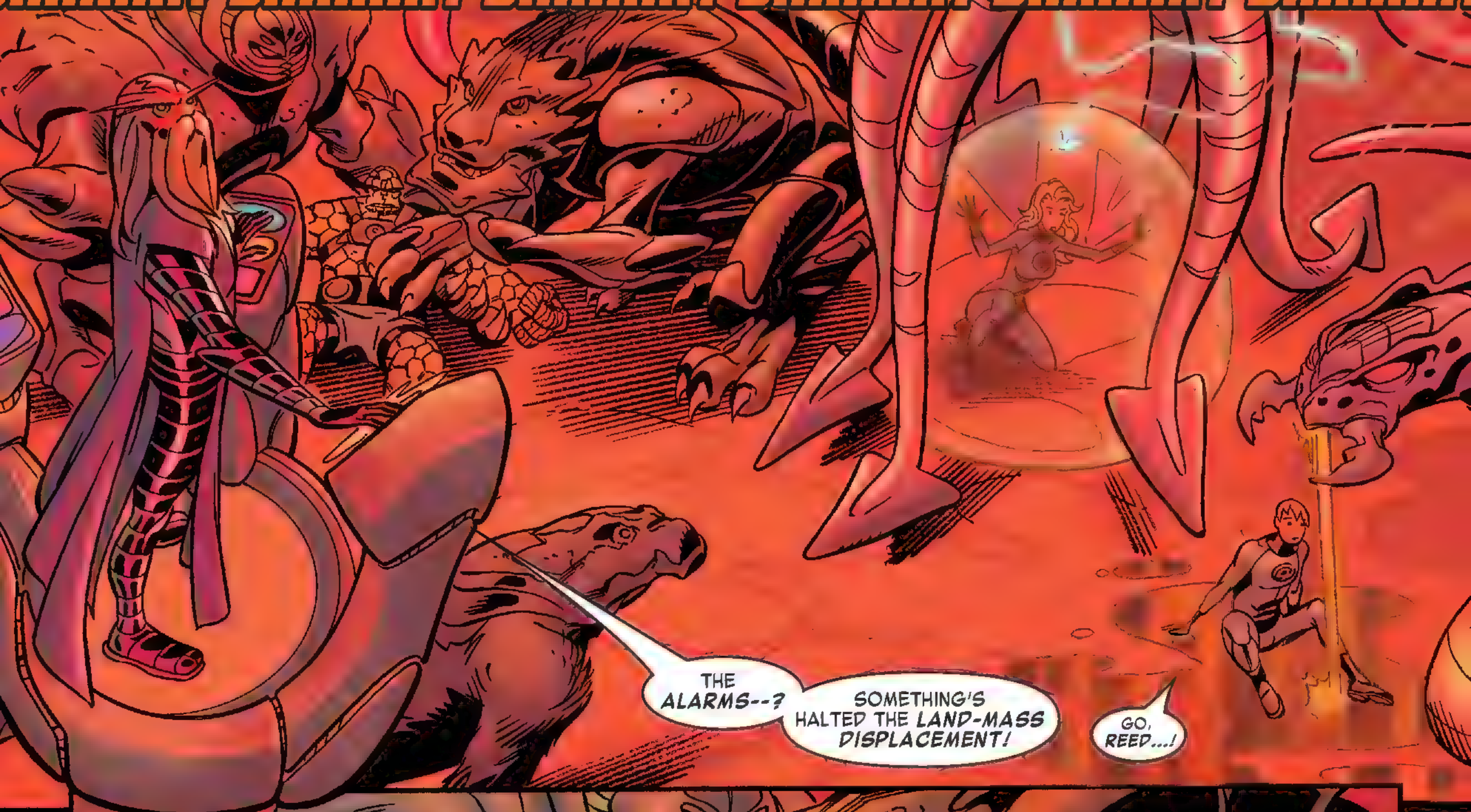
BINGO! WE'RE  
HACKED IN AND  
LOCKED ON!

THIS IS NOW ON NETWORK  
FEED. THE WHOLE COUNTRY  
CAN SEE AND HEAR THIS--  
SO PULL UP A CHAIR,  
LADY!

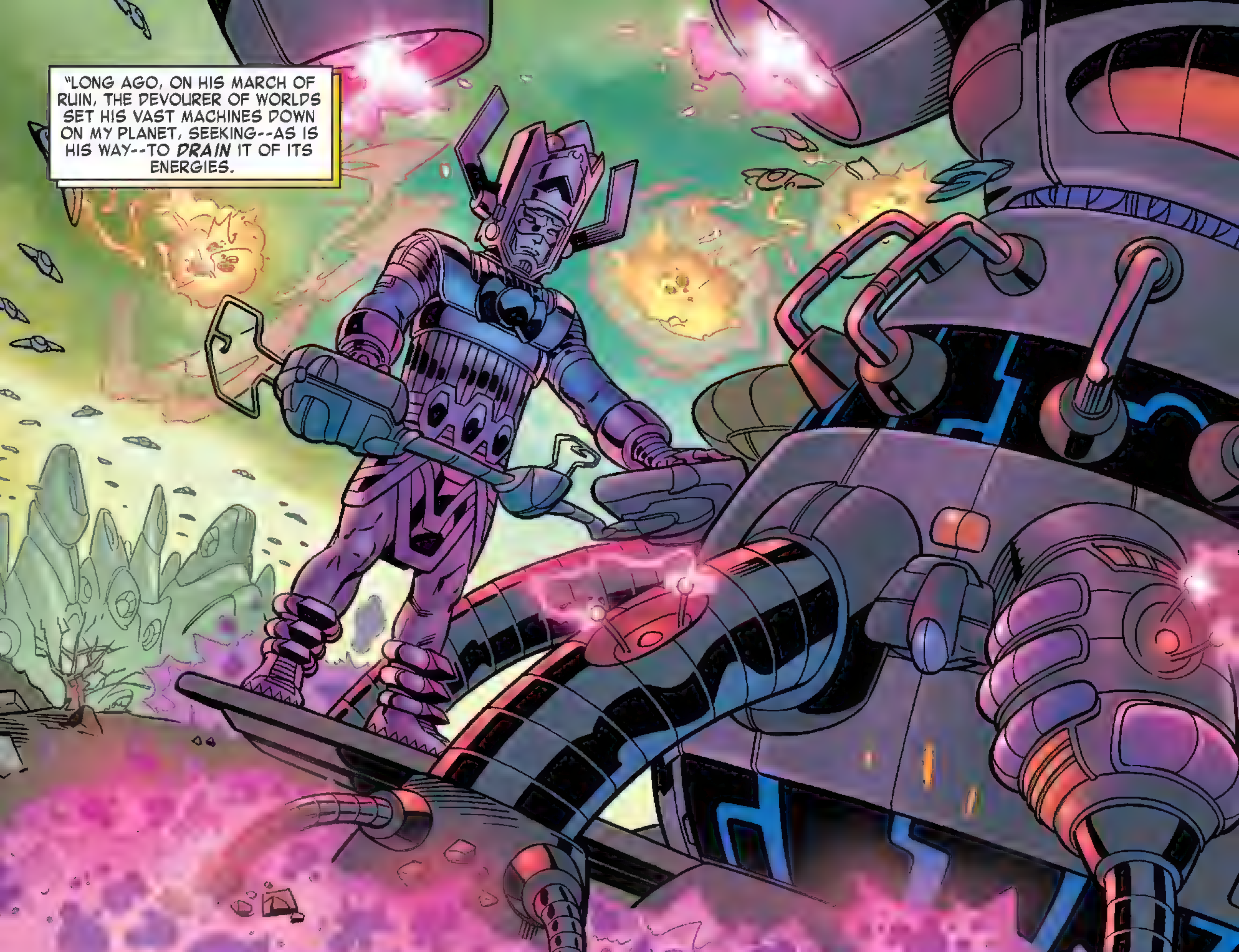




AAAAANT-BAAAAANT BAAAAANT-BAAAAANT BAAAAANT-BAAAAANT



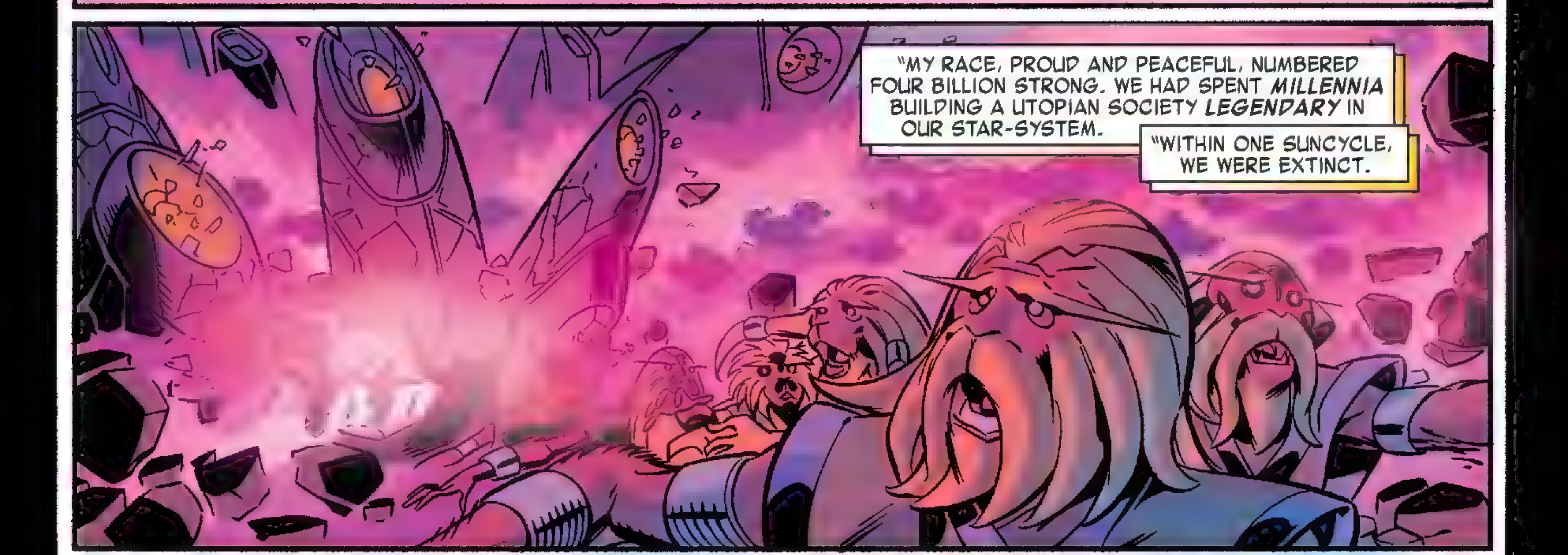




"LONG AGO, ON HIS MARCH OF RUIN, THE DEVOURER OF WORLDS SET HIS VAST MACHINES DOWN ON MY PLANET, SEEKING--AS IS HIS WAY--TO **DRAIN** IT OF ITS ENERGIES.



"WITHOUT CARE, WITHOUT MERCY, EAGER ONLY TO SATE HIS COSMIC HUNGER, GALACTUS SWIFTLY TRANSFORMED MY HOMEWORLD INTO A LIFELESS HUSK.



"MY RACE, PROUD AND PEACEFUL, NUMBERED FOUR BILLION STRONG. WE HAD SPENT **MILLENNIA** BUILDING A UTOPIAN SOCIETY **LEGENDARY** IN OUR STAR-SYSTEM.

"WITHIN ONE SUNCYCLE, WE WERE EXTINCT.



"I AND I ALONE MANAGED TO ESCAPE. DRIVEN BY THE MEMORIES OF THOSE I LOST, I SWORE TO DEVOTE THE REST OF MY LIFE TO *THWARTING* GALACTUS'S SYSTEMATIC RAMPAGE OF GENOCIDE.



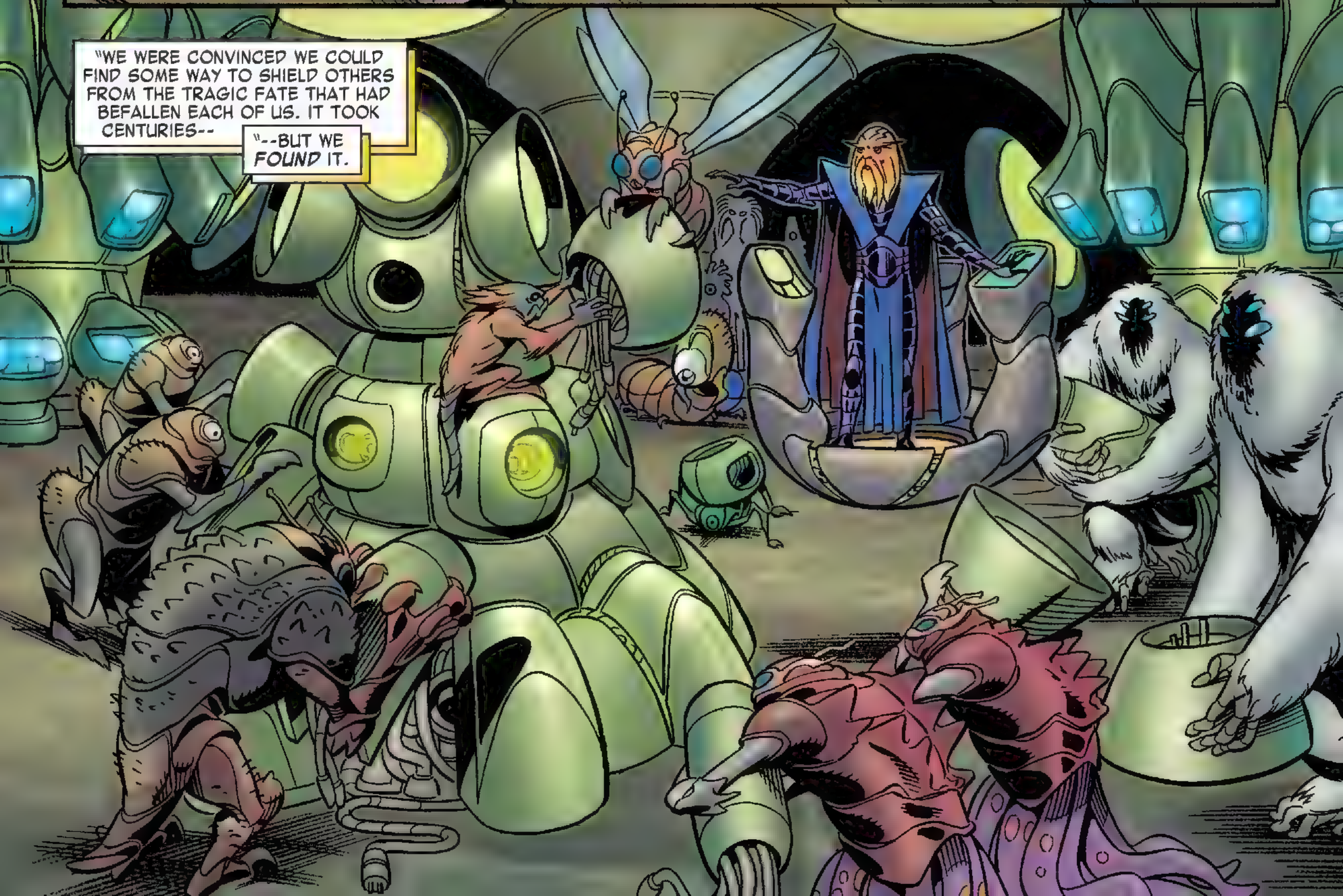
"I TRAVELED THE COSMOS, DESPERATELY KEEPING PACE WITH THE WORLD-EATER, SAVING THOSE FEW I COULD FROM THOSE PLANETS HE RAVAGED.

"ALL THE WHILE, AS OUR NUMBERS GREW, SO DID OUR SPACECRAFT--AND OUR *AMBITION*.



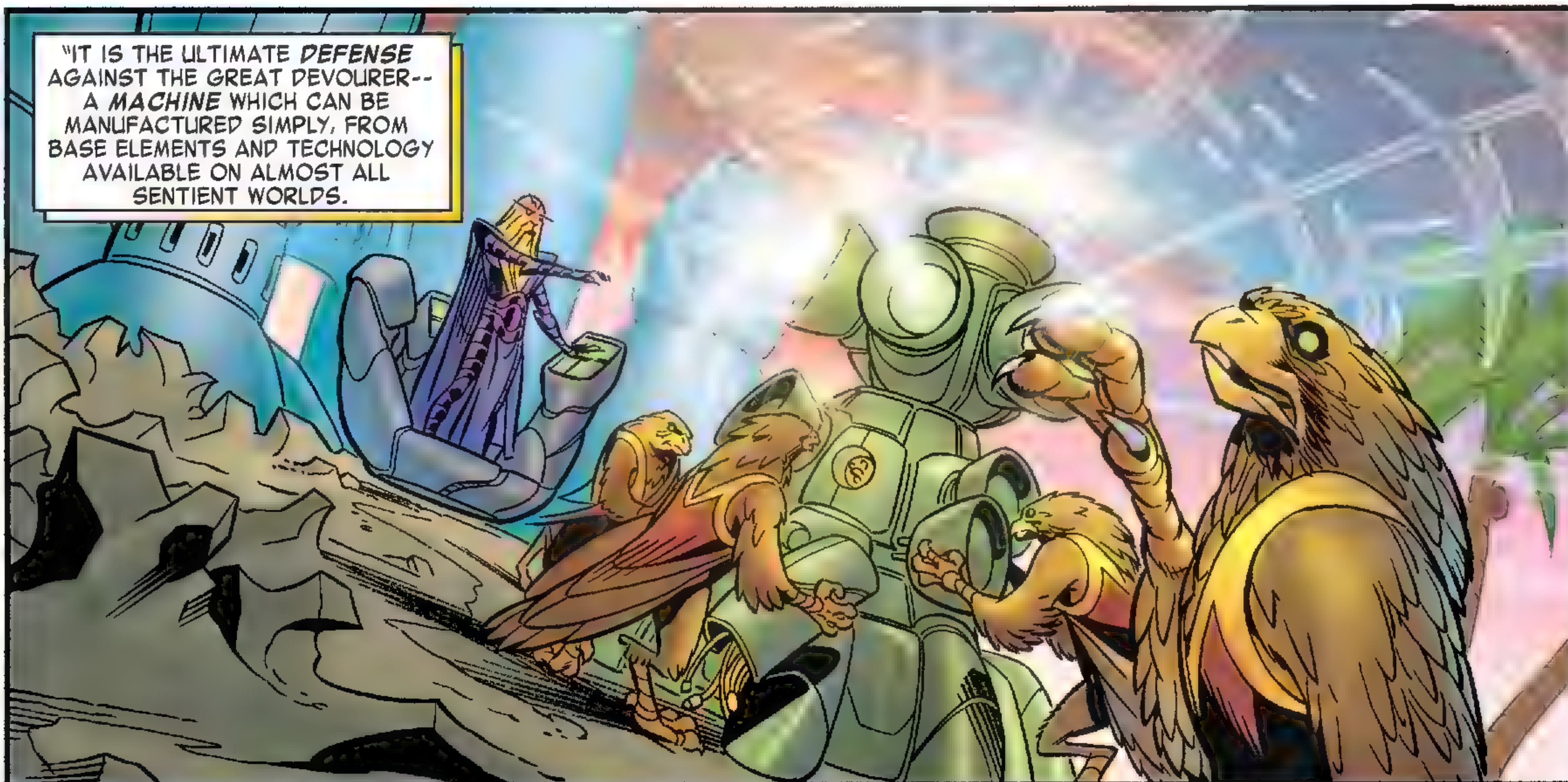
"WE WERE CONVINCED WE COULD FIND SOME WAY TO SHIELD OTHERS FROM THE TRAGIC FATE THAT HAD BEFALLEN EACH OF US. IT TOOK CENTURIES--

"--BUT WE *FOUND* IT.





"IT IS THE ULTIMATE **DEFENSE**  
AGAINST THE GREAT DEVOURER--  
A **MACHINE** WHICH CAN BE  
MANUFACTURED SIMPLY, FROM  
BASE ELEMENTS AND TECHNOLOGY  
AVAILABLE ON ALMOST ALL  
SENTIENT WORLDS.



"WHEN ACTIVATED, IT GENERATES  
A TOTAL AND COMPREHENSIVE  
**INVISIBILITY FIELD**. A PLANET UNDER  
ITS **PROTECTION** TEMPORARILY  
FADES FROM **VIEW**--

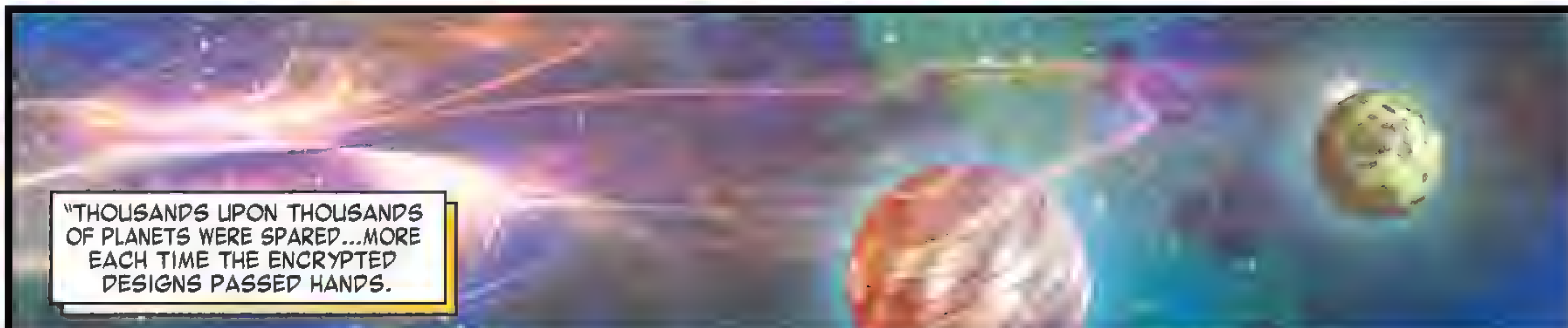


"--ELUDING NOT ONLY THE  
**EYES**, BUT EVEN THE MOST  
**SOPHISTICATED SENSORS**  
OF GALACTUS.

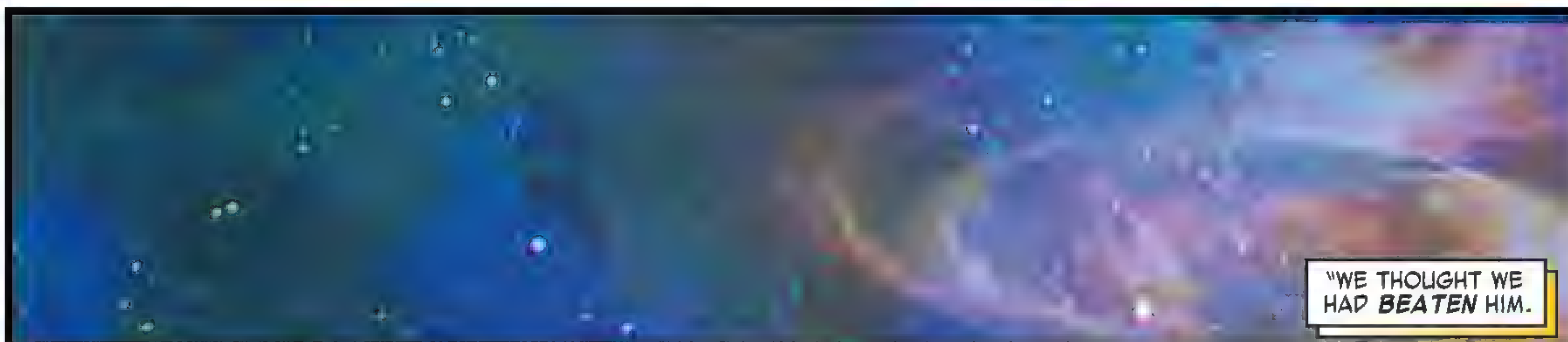
"WORD OF OUR DISCOVERY SPREAD, AND SO DID ITS  
**DESIGN**--A DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM WE **ENCOURAGED**.  
OUR CLOAKING TECHNOLOGY WAS **FREELY SHARED**  
WITH ANYONE WHO WISHED TO **ELUDE** GALACTUS.



"THOUSANDS UPON THOUSANDS  
OF PLANETS WERE SPARED...MORE  
EACH TIME THE ENCRYPTED  
DESIGNS PASSED HANDS.



"WE THOUGHT WE  
HAD **BEATEN** HIM.





"RECENTLY, HOWEVER, WE RECEIVED A CHILLING BIT OF INTELLIGENCE FROM THE SHI'AR, CONFIRMED BY THE SKRULLS:

"OUR TECHNOLOGY WASN'T, AS WE HAD BELIEVED, FOOLPROOF.

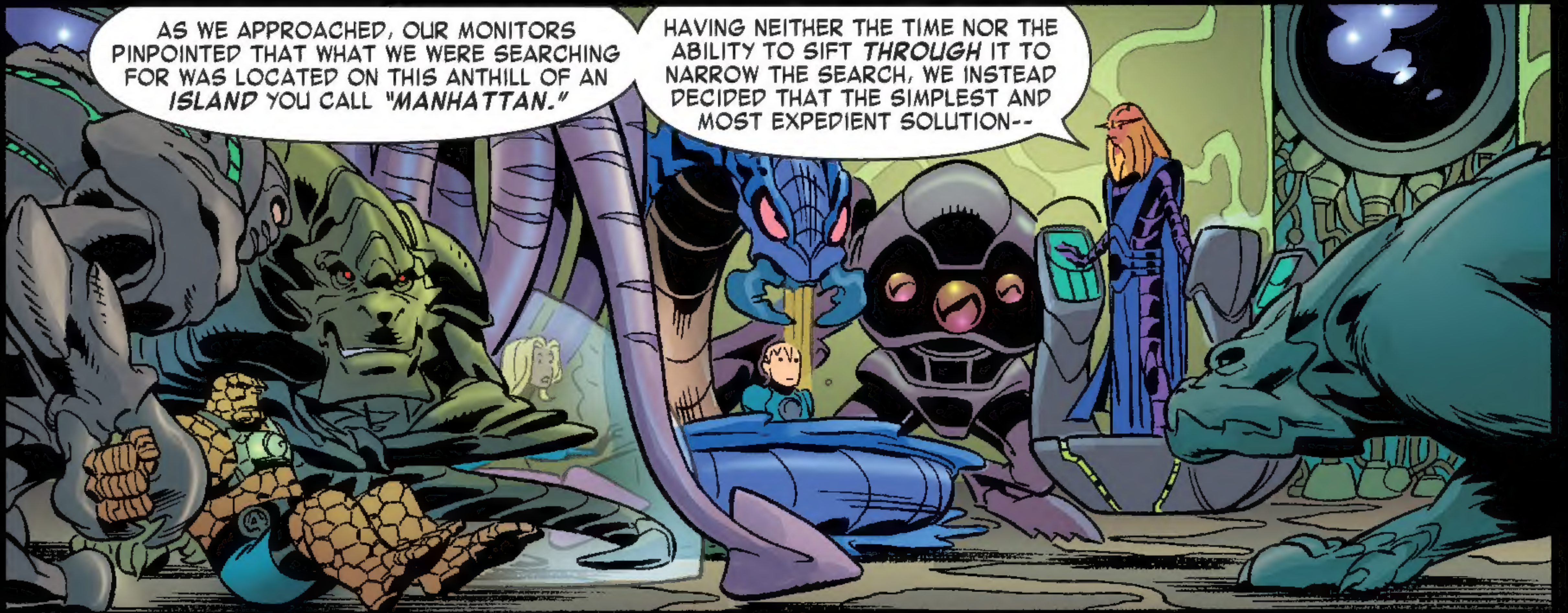
"ACCORDING TO THIS INFORMATION, THERE WAS SOMETHING ON THE THIRD PLANET IN THE SOL SYSTEM UNIQUELY CAPABLE OF NEGATING OUR CLOAKING FREEWARE.

"WORSE...GALACTUS REALIZES THIS.

"THERE WAS, NATURALLY, ONLY ONE OPTIMAL SOLUTION TO THIS VARIABLE. ONLY ONE WAY TO ENSURE THE FUTURE SAFETY OF THE TRILLIONS OF SENTIENT CIVILIZATIONS DEPENDENT UPON OUR INVENTION.

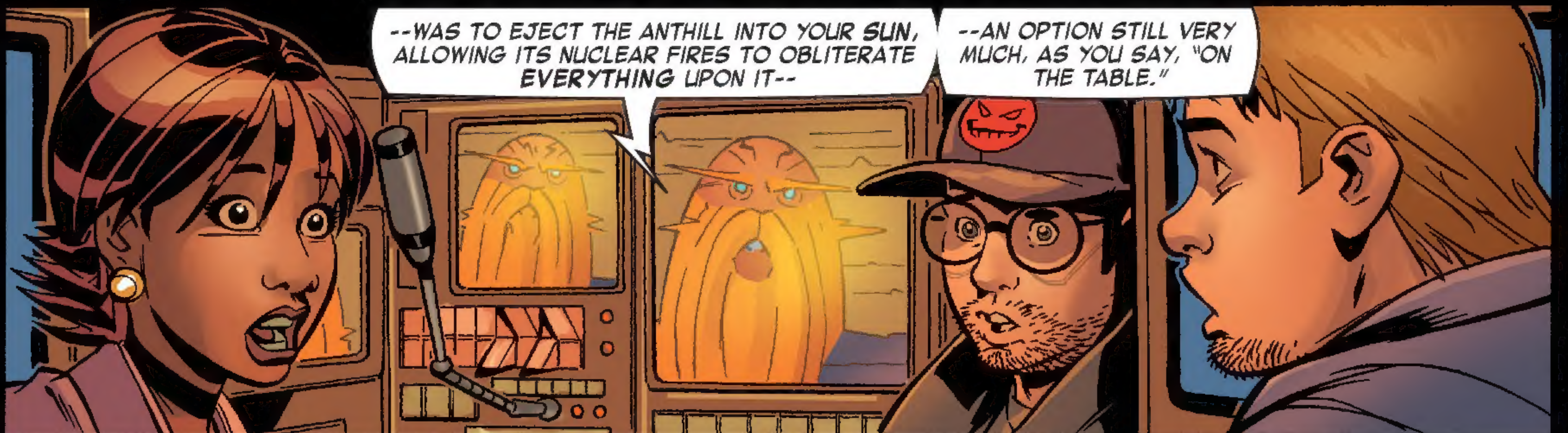
"ELIMINATE THIS RESOURCE BEFORE GALACTUS CLAIMS IT FOR HIS OWN."





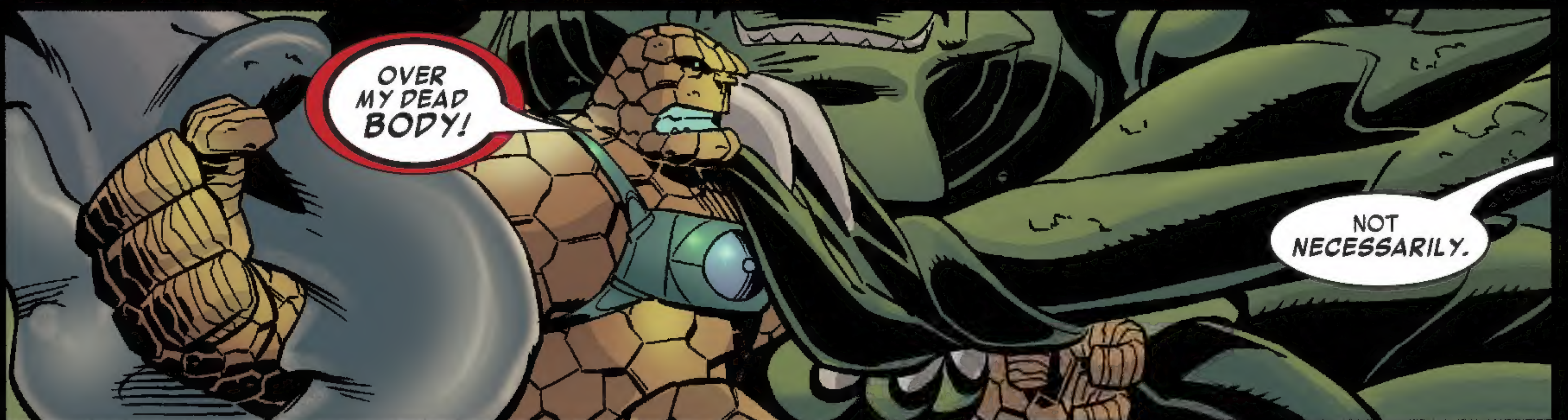
AS WE APPROACHED, OUR MONITORS PINPOINTED THAT WHAT WE WERE SEARCHING FOR WAS LOCATED ON THIS ANTHILL OF AN ISLAND YOU CALL "MANHATTAN."

HAVING NEITHER THE TIME NOR THE ABILITY TO SIFT *THROUGH* IT TO NARROW THE SEARCH, WE INSTEAD DECIDED THAT THE SIMPLEST AND MOST EXPEDIENT SOLUTION--



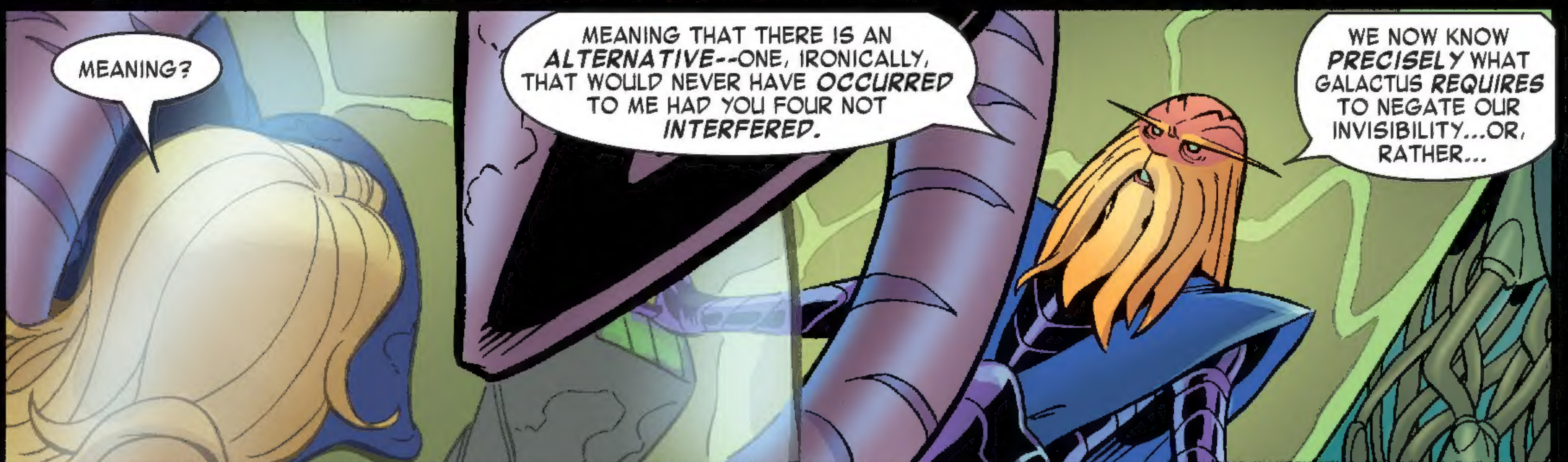
--WAS TO EJECT THE ANTHILL INTO YOUR SUN, ALLOWING ITS NUCLEAR FIRES TO OBLITERATE EVERYTHING UPON IT--

--AN OPTION STILL VERY MUCH, AS YOU SAY, "ON THE TABLE."



OVER MY DEAD BODY!

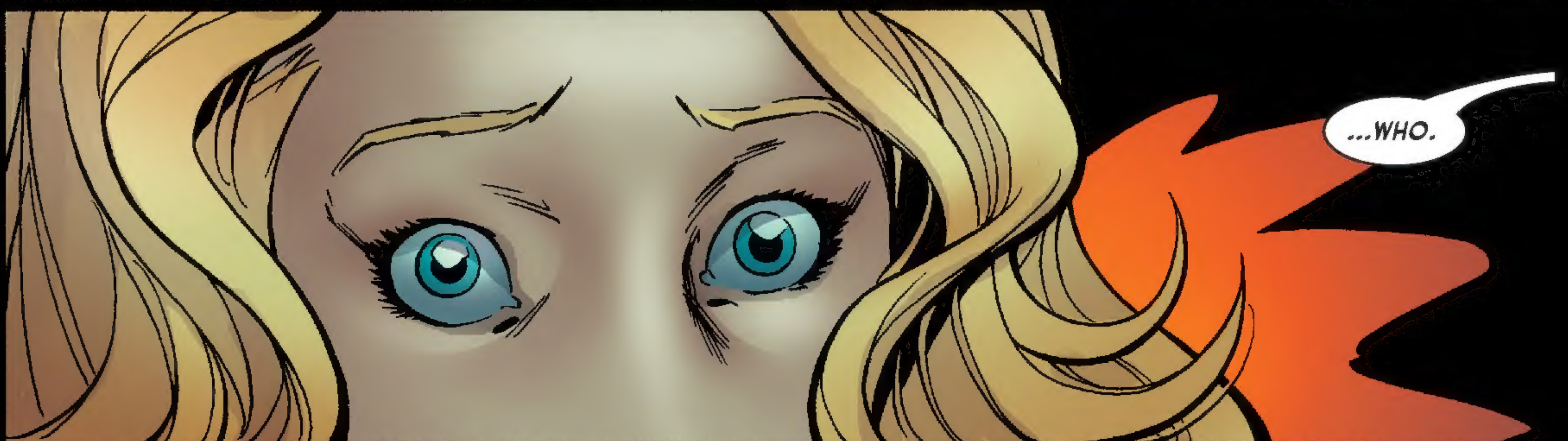
NOT NECESSARILY.



MEANING?

MEANING THAT THERE IS AN **ALTERNATIVE**--ONE, IRONICALLY, THAT WOULD NEVER HAVE OCCURRED TO ME HAD YOU FOUR NOT INTERFERED.

WE NOW KNOW **PRECISELY** WHAT GALACTUS *REQUIRES* TO NEGATE OUR INVISIBILITY...OR, RATHER...



...WHO.



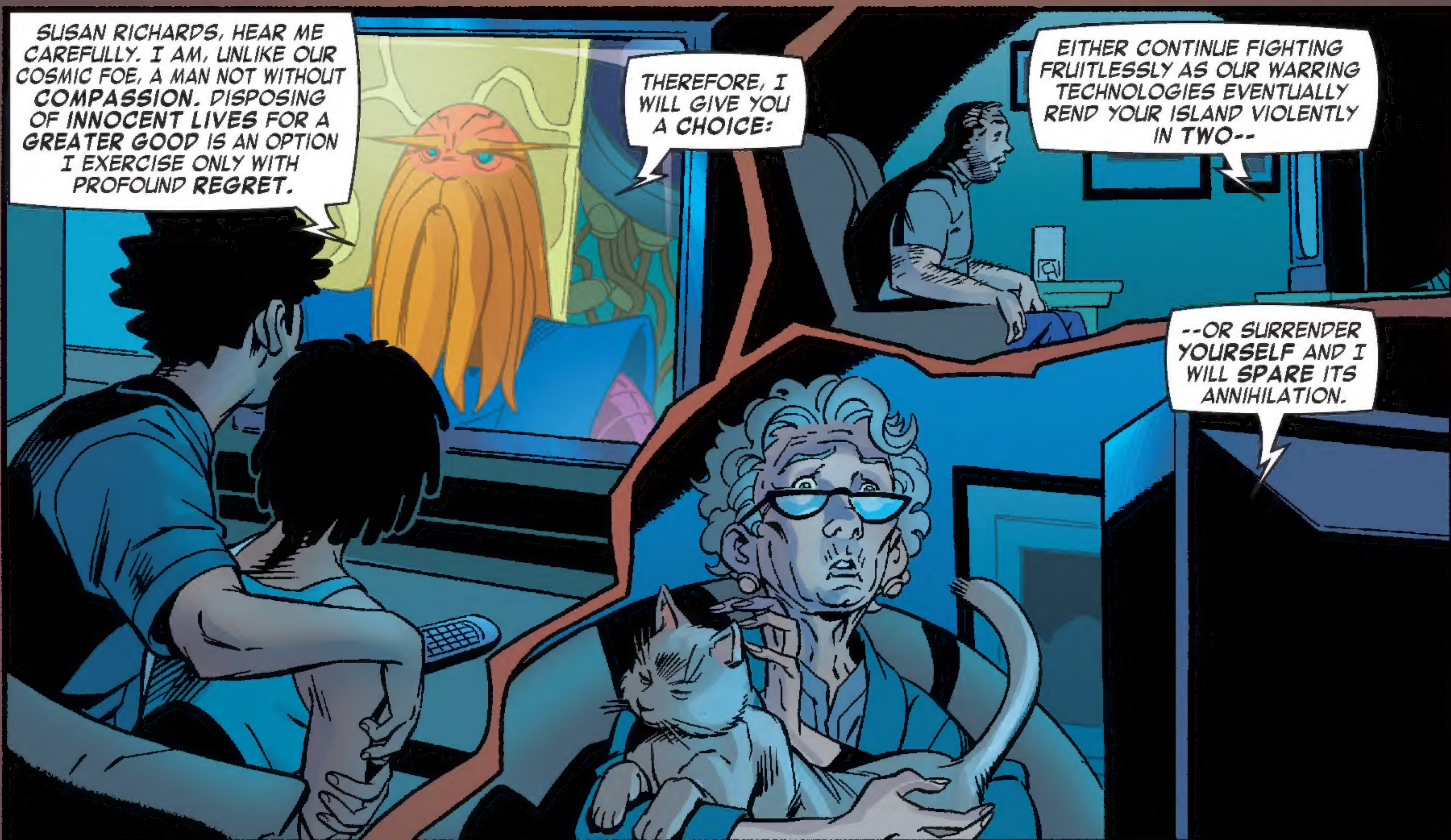


SUE...  
NO...!

UH-OH.  
STRETCHO, WE  
NEED YA.

GET HER  
OUT OF THERE,  
BEN! I CAN'T!

IF I LEAVE  
HERE, MANHATTAN  
SNAPS LIKE A TWIG!  
BEN, DO YOU READ  
ME?



SUSAN RICHARDS, HEAR ME  
CAREFULLY. I AM, UNLIKE OUR  
COSMIC FOE, A MAN NOT WITHOUT  
COMPASSION. DISPOSING  
OF INNOCENT LIVES FOR A  
GREATER GOOD IS AN OPTION  
I EXERCISE ONLY WITH  
PROFOUND REGRET.

THEREFORE, I  
WILL GIVE YOU  
A CHOICE:

EITHER CONTINUE FIGHTING  
FRUITLESSLY AS OUR WARRING  
TECHNOLOGIES EVENTUALLY  
REND YOUR ISLAND VIOLENTLY  
IN TWO--

--OR SURRENDER  
YOURSELF AND I  
WILL SPARE ITS  
ANNIHILATION.

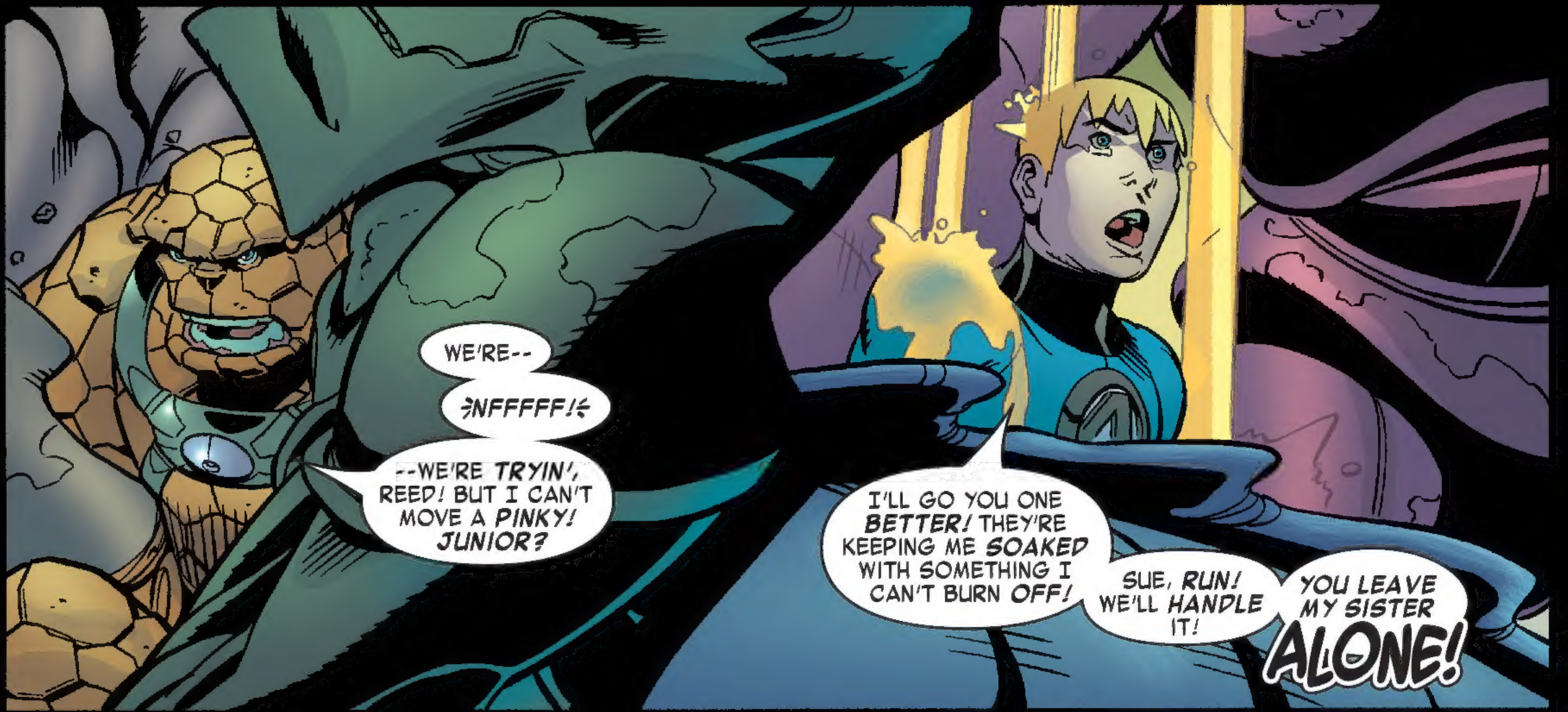


SURRENDER...?

SUE! DON'T  
LISTEN TO HIM!  
JOHNNY! BEN! DO  
SOMETHING!

I'VE STALLED AS  
LONG AS I KNOW  
HOW! BUY ME TIME  
TO FIGURE A WAY  
OUT OF THIS!





WE'RE--

SNFFFFFF!

--WE'RE TRYIN',  
REED! BUT I CAN'T  
MOVE A PINKY!  
JUNIOR?

I'LL GO YOU ONE  
BETTER! THEY'RE  
KEEPING ME SOAKED  
WITH SOMETHING I  
CAN'T BURN OFF!

SUE, RUN!  
WE'LL HANDLE  
IT!

YOU LEAVE  
MY SISTER  
**ALONE!**



ZIUS, WAIT! I'M NOT  
THE THREAT YOU MAKE  
ME OUT TO BE!

I WOULD NEVER  
HELP GALACTUS DO  
ANYTHING TO HURT  
OTHERS!

NOT WILLINGLY,  
PERHAPS. STILL, SO LONG  
AS SUCH POWER RESIDES  
IN YOU, HE WILL FIND A WAY  
TO EXTRACT IT. HIS OWN  
LIFE MAY DEPEND ON IT.

CHOOSE,  
SUSAN RICHARDS.  
CHOOSE NOW.



...  
WHAT  
CHOICE IS  
THERE?

I  
SURRENDER.



**SUSANNNN!**